8,000 Napocor employees to lose jobs this month

Story on PAGE A2

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Children of war need toys, crayons, books

By Volt Contreras

CHILDREN displaced by war—like the thousands now huddled in the cramped evacuation centers of Pikit, North Cotabato—need more than just food, shelter and clothing.

They also need toys, modelling clay, crayons and kiddie reading material—anything that can help them "venti-

CHILDREN/ A21

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **OFW remittances hit all-time high of $7B**
  BUSINESS /B1
- **Color-coding back for all PUVs**
  METRO/A25
- **Paeans to Michel Legrand**
  ENTERTAINMENT/A32

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Friday, February 14, 2003 ★★ 130 pages / 15 sections / vol. 18 / no. 68 P15
website: www.inq7.net

Fighting escalates; 137 Moro rebs slain

Gov't claims MILF girding for Iraq war

By the PDI Mindanao Bureau and Martin Marfil *in Manila*

FIGHTING in Central Mindanao spread to a third province yesterday, raising the death toll to at least 137 rebels and four soldiers killed since Tuesday.

Government officials had accused the MILF of massing near Pikit in North Cotabato in preparation for retaliatory strikes if the United States pushed ahead with an attack on Iraq.

The major encounter yesterday in Lambayong town, Sultan Kudarat, raised fears that the offensive against rebel positions in North Cotabato and Maguindanao provinces could no longer be confined to the Liguasan Marsh, a vast marshland known to be an enclave of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

The military offensive against the Pentagon kidnap gang and the MILF, accused of harboring the criminals, is on its fourth day.

The clash in Barangay Tinumigis in Lambayong town, which started at about 9 a.m. yesterday, left at least 35 rebels dead. Col. Agustin Dima-Ala, 301st Infantry Brigade commander, said the bodies of 35 rebels had already been recovered from the site. [A TV report put the number at 41.]

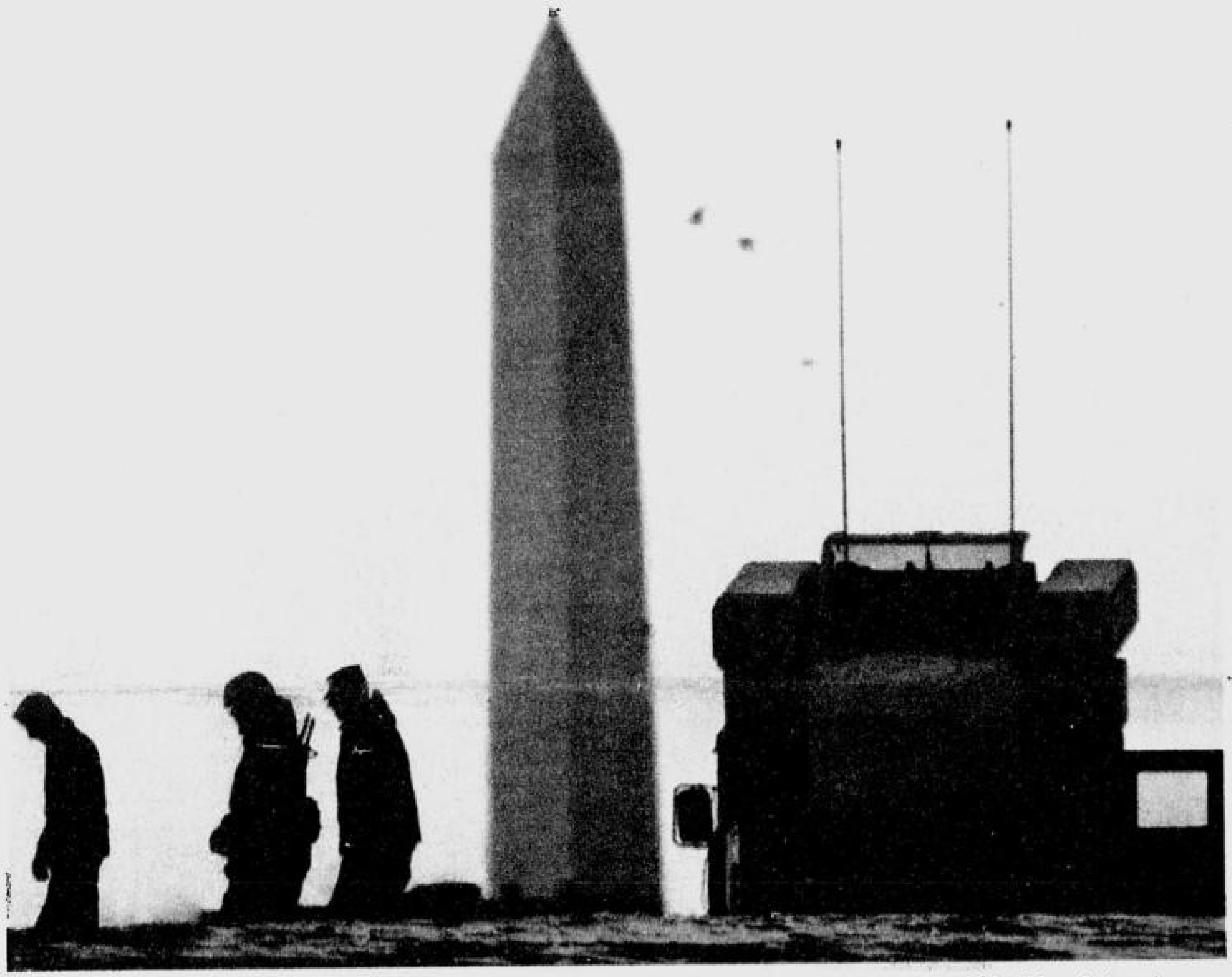
Four militiamen and three civilians were also killed in the clash, which left two soldiers wounded, Dima-Ala added.

Rebel forces escaped by taking 20 civilians hostage and using them as human shields, other military officials said. All of the Lambayong hostages were released by mid-afternoon.

Since Wednesday night, at least four other armed encounters have taken place in North Cotabato and Maguindanao provinces. An undetermined number of civilians were taken hostage in at least one encounter, and remained in captivity as of press time.

Officials said the fresh clashes and hostage-taking were an attempt by the MILF to escape the massive military of-

FIGHTING/ A21



IT HAS come to this: An air defense missile system right in the heart of Washington D.C., guards the skies of the US capital, as the United States remains under a heightened state of alert for a sixth day against domestic attacks on prominent landmarks like the Washington Monument. The missile system called Avenger consists of a pedestal mounted "Stinger" battery. REUTERS

Congress approves new 'dirty money' law

By Cynthia D. Balana, Gerald G. Lacuarta and Christine O. Avendaño

THE HOUSE of Representatives and the Senate yesterday ratified amendments to the Anti-Money Laundering Act (Amla) that lowered the threshold for automatic reporting of bank transactions to P500,000 and allowed the probing of accounts without a court order in cases of suspected kidnapping, hijacking and drug trafficking.

But the amendments fell short of the standards set by the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF), raising fears that the global money laundering watchdog will reject the amended Amla and impose sanctions on the country that would make offshore transactions more costly and lengthy.

The FATF wanted Congress to allow regulators to look into suspicious accounts without a court order, lower the threshold to P500,000 and wanted these changes to apply to accounts before Amla took effect in October 2001.

The lawmakers also inserted a provision prohibiting banks from turning down clients who refuse to waive their rights to the secrecy of their deposits.

"We're keeping our fingers crossed ... we are praying that the reconciled conference committee report would meet the stringent requirements of the FATF so that our five million overseas Filipino workers will not suffer (the sanctions)," Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. said.

He said government officials practically burned phone lines to convince the FATF to accept the amendments. "We made represen-

CONGRESS/ A19

Germany, France continue to defy US

BRUSSELS, Belgium—Nato's crisis talks on Iraq dragged on for a fourth straight day Thursday after German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said his country, France and Belgium would not drop their veto on US-backed military planning to defend Turkey before a key UN meeting on Friday.

"Together with our French and Belgian friends, we consider it inappropriate to have a formal Nato decision on the start of planning for a war before the discussions of the Security Council," Schroeder told the German parliament in Berlin on Thursday.

As the United States and its other European allies used harsh language against the three Nato holdouts, Washington and London stepped up security against possible attacks by al-Qaida.

Anti-aircraft missiles guarded Washington's skies and police in the US capital carried gas masks. In London, British soldiers joined police in securing likely terrorist targets, with tanks and armored cars deployed at Heathrow airport.

The German chancellor insisted that Nato solidarity was not endangered by what he termed "occasional differences of opinion," adding that Germany had already agreed in principle to make German Awacs crews and Patriot missile defense systems available to protect Turkey against any potential Iraqi counterstrike.

GERMANY/ A20

FAREWELL to arms: Marine Cpl. Christopher Watson says goodbye to his wife of three weeks, Heather, in Beaufort, South Carolina, before his deployment to the Middle East. GETTY IMAGES

Love grows fonder for 2 overseas Pinoys

By Christian V. Esguerra

THIS time they will brave love in the time of war.

Despite the simmering tension in the Middle East, Sherwin and Lorena Ocampo will fly to Bahrain this month for a second honeymoon.

Sherwin, 25, and Lorena, 28, got married in December 2001. They believe their time in that country will allow them to have a child or two.

But apart from the honeymoon, they will join Sherwin's 58-year-old mother Elena, who started working for the Jordanian Embassy in Bahrain in 1983 when he was 6, and whom he has seen only twice since then.

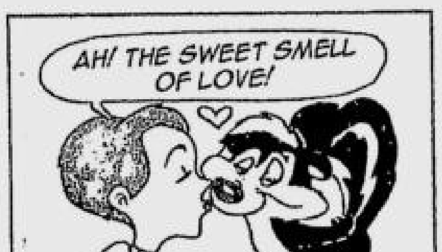
Sherwin was raised by his aunts in Caloocan City, and Elena saw him grow up only through pictures and letters sent by her sisters. He did not imagine that despite time and distance, it was she who would work behind the scenes to arrange his wedding to his longtime love.

How did it happen? Divine in-

LOVE/ A20

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

BRAVING a potential hot spot, Sherwin and Lorena Ocampo fly to Bahrain for a 2nd honeymoon.



AH! THE SWEET SMELL OF LOVE!

Lessons on amour from a skunk

By Hazel P. Villa
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—When it comes to amour, this skunk is the man.

Of course, no woman with tip-top olfactory functions would want anything to do with a guy who smells like a garbage pit. But who wouldn't want someone as persistent, charming, witty and suave as that Loony Tunes cartoon character, Pepe le Pew?

This sweet French skunk was my first love, and I remember coming

LESSONS/ A20

50 Lakas solons want Danding for president

By Juliet L. Javellana

FIFTY congressmen from the ruling Lakas party have signed a "confidential letter" urging businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco to be "our standard-bearer."

The 63-strong Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC) in the House of Representatives is expected to solidly back Cojuangco, party chair emeritus, if he decides to run for president.

This gives him the solid backing of almost half of the House membership while Lakas is taking its time in choosing its candidate.

"Many more are going to sign in the next few days," said a Lakas congressman privy to the letter dated Feb. 4. He requested not to be named.

A separate letter was being signed by "parties in coalition with Lakas-NPC," he said.

"We are writing you to express our sincerest desire to sustain the Lakas-NPC coalition and with you, sir, as our standard-bearer," the congressman said in a two-page letter to Cojuangco.

A Lakas congressman showed the letter to the INQUIRER but he asked that the names not be printed yet.

"Some of the signatories don't want to be identified for now," he said. He said congressmen identified with the party of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos and even the Liberal Party would join the draft.

Cojuangco has called a meeting of the NPC executive committee on Monday when endorsements from various groups asking him to run in 2004 would be pre-

50 LAKAS/ A20

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon and Eastern Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/02/14/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Days of Napocor workers numbered

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The government will terminate the remaining 8,000 employees of the National Power Corp. nationwide on Feb. 28, in spite of efforts of the state power firm's two unions to obtain an injunction from the Supreme Court.

The decision that virtually dissolved Napocor was relayed to its regional office here on Thursday by Arturo Ortiz, president of the National Transmission Corp. (Transco). Transco was spun off from Napocor on Feb. 1.

"The bad news is we are all going to be terminated. The good news is [Transco] is ready to absorb [the present workforce of 3,714 who handle government's transmission facilities]," Alex Cortes, Transco senior vice president for human resources, said.

With P17 billion in Transco earnings expected this year, Ortiz said the new power company could absorb 500 more Napocor's workers "right this very minute."

The Napocor Employees Consolidated Union (Necu) and the Napocor Employees and Workers Union (Newu) asked the Supreme Court late last year to restrain the company from implementing a controversial table of organization (TO) that hastened its dissolution.

The reorganization plan farmed out the employees to a Napocor-run Transco, a Hydroelectric Generation Division, a Thermal Generation Division, a Geothermal Generation Division, and a Mindanao Generation Division.

It then called for the termination of 2,370 employees throughout the country on Nov. 18, when it abolished six generation companies (gencos) and all of the firm's regional offices.

Walden Revelar, a Necu official, said union protests delayed last year's scheduled retrenchment of 30 percent of its members.

But he said the Napocor board, led by Energy Secretary Vicente Perez Jr. and Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, apparently pushed for a final termination date to take advantage of the fact that the Supreme Court had not acted yet on the unions' petition.

"The real issue now is whether they will pay us immediately. The Transco selection board was formed without union participation, and they have ordered the screening of applicants next week. Meantime, no one has assured employees that they will be receiving their separation pay as soon as they finally terminate our services as Napocor employees," Revelar said.

Cortes said Transco was considered a new government firm, and neither Necu nor Newu has legal access to its employees.

Kiko fears Shawie's ire more than FATF sanctions

By Gerald Lacuarta

KIKO really loves Shawie.

Yesterday, Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan said he would have chosen to be with his actress-wife Sharon Cuneta on Valentine's Day than be in Paris, France, to meet with the Financial Action Task Force.

The FATF is holding a plenary meeting on Friday and a Philippine delegation was scheduled to leave at 10 last night to be in Paris by Friday morning.

"That's Valentine's Day," Pangilinan said when Senate President Franklin Drilon told him they were going to Paris to present the amendments to the Anti-Money Laundering Act and negotiate for better terms for the Philippines.

"I don't know which would have been more frightening, displeasing the FATF or my wife," Pangilinan said. "I think I could bear the sanctions of the FATF but I don't think I can say the same about my wife's."

Drilon told Pangilinan he would be going to Paris "for country."

"You could bring Sharon along," Drilon had added.

Later, Pangilinan told the INQUIRER he was only joking, although he appeared really bothered by the prospect of being away from his superstar wife on Valentine's Day.

The Senate had planned to send a small delegation with the Bangko Sentral team that will present the AMLA amendments to the FATF.

"This became inadvisable, however, because we would be arriving in Paris on Friday morning and the FATF plenary meeting ends at noon," Pangilinan said.

Aside from Drilon and Pangilinan, Sen. Edgardo Angara was scheduled to make the trip.

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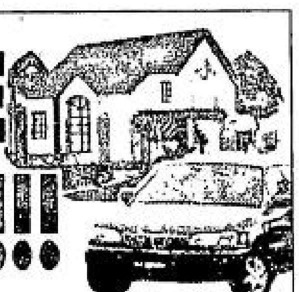
Employers vow to pay hiked SSS premium

THE EMPLOYERS Confederation of the Philippines yesterday assured workers that even distressed establishments would comply with the mandatory increase in Social Security System contributions.

Ecop president Donald Dee said that companies in distress may apply for a restructuring scheme to enable them to meet the contributions.

Dee, who also sits as SSS commissioner, said that the SSS would open the books of firms in distress to decide which forms of restructuring would work for them.

"They should go to the SSS this early so that their workers would not be bothered," Dee said in a statement. *Blanche S. Rivera*



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Back-to-English foes 'more unpatriotic'–GMA

By Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday decried as "more unpatriotic" calls to restore Filipino as the medium of instruction in schools.

Speaking before an information technology and communication exhibit, President Macapagal defended her decision to shift to English as the primary tool of instruction.

The President said that the Filipinos' ability to speak English "has always been our strongest selling point," particularly in the ITC sector, which the government is promoting as an industry.

"We don't want to take that for granted," she said. "We don't want the quality of our English to deteriorate."

She noted that in a highly competitive world, the ability to speak English is not enough as demands call for better grasp of the language.

"So some people may call me unpatriotic but I think it is more unpatriotic to deprive our citizens of these economic opportunities for the sake of linguistic fidelity," Ms. Macapagal said.

In an interview over Zoe cable channel on Wednesday night, the President said that the shift to English as medium of instruction in schools is one of four important decisions she would have not made had she did not renounce her plan to run for reelection in 2004.

The three others were the allocation of more funds for the computerization of the 2004 national and local elections, the gun ban and her population policy.

"I was able to do these because I don't have to worry that this constituency or this sector would get hurt," she said. "I just do what is right."

Before the shift ordered by the President last month, both Filipino and English were used as tools for instruction.

The 1987 Constitution mandates the use of Filipino, but President Macapagal earlier pointed that no enabling law has been passed in connection with this matter.

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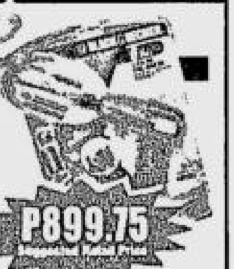

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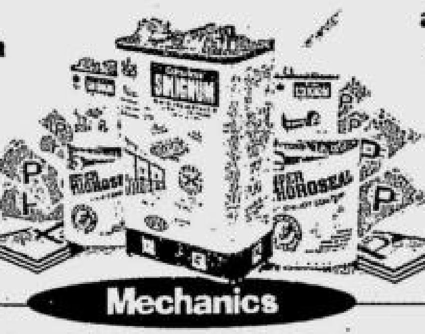

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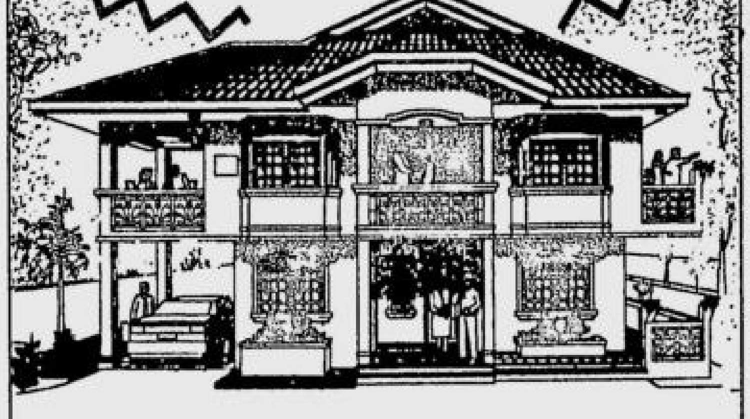

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Abu Sayyaf placed on Canada's terror list

TORONTO—Canada added the Abu Nidal Organization, Abu Sayyaf Group and Peru's Shining Path to a list of banned terrorist organizations Wednesday.

The list now has 19 groups that are banned from the country. Anyone belonging to them or helping them faces a possible 10-year prison sentence.

Others on the list include al-Qaida and Hezbollah.

The Abu Nidal Organization has carried out attacks that killed hundreds in the Middle East, South America and Europe in pursuit of its goal of destroying the state of Israel.

The Abu Sayyaf Group is a fundamentalist Islamic separatist group operating in southern Philippines.

Sendero Luminoso, or Shining Path, has operated primarily in rural Peru with occasional forays into Lima, the capital. Its targets have included Canadian citizens and interests. *AP*

Jobo heirs' bid to junk bank's suit denied

THE SUPREME Court has denied "with finality" a motion filed by the heirs of former Central Bank Governor Jose "Jobo" Fernandez to dismiss an P18.8-billion damage claim filed by Banco Filipino for its "illegal closure" in 1985.

The high court's ruling allows Banco Filipino to continue presenting evidence before the Makati Regional Trial Court against the old Central Bank.

Soldiers closed Banco Filipino on Jan. 25, 1985, several months after the Central Bank bailed out the bank with a P3-billion emergency loan. Banco Filipino then had 89 branches and 3.8 million depositors.

Banco Filipino is seeking P18.8 billion in damages for the incident.

The heirs of Fernandez, who died on June 19, 1994, asked the Supreme Court to dismiss Banco Filipino's claims. They cited a "technicality," saying the bank's lawyers had failed to appear in a pre-trial conference on Oct. 27, 1999.

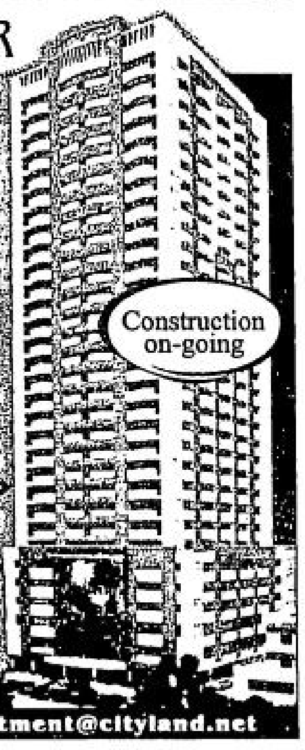
Court records showed, however, that Banco Filipino's lawyers did not appear because a lower court failed to notify them of the meeting.

The Supreme Court allowed Banco Filipino in 1999 to seek damages from the old Central Bank, junking a motion for reconsideration filed by the Board of Liquidators that, it said, failed to present a "compelling reason" to change its original ruling on Feb. 17, 1999.

The ruling marked the first time the Supreme Court upheld the damage claims of a private bank against the Monetary Board—the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' policy-making body—and the Board of Liquidators.

In its earlier ruling, the Supreme Court said Banco Filipino's closure on Jan. 25, 1985 by Fernandez was "arbitrary and committed with grave abuse of discretion."

It upheld the bank's claim that it was a victim of injustice under the Marcos regime and during the term of Fernandez as head of the CB.



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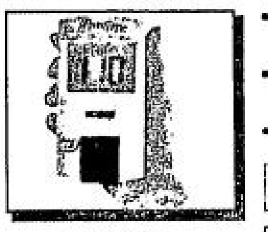

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Comelec pressed for time, money for absentee vote

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE COMMISSION on Elections is pressed for time to come up with the mechanics that would allow some 7.5 million overseas Filipino workers to vote in the May 2004 national elections.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday signed Republic Act 9189 or the Oversees Absentee Voting Act of 2003 in simple ceremonies in Malacañang.

The signing was witnessed by about 30 migrant groups whose members eagerly posed for pictures with the President, lawmakers and Cabinet officials.

The law allows qualified Filipino citizens abroad to vote for president, vice president, senators and party-list representatives in 2004 and subsequent elections, except plebiscites and referendums.

In order to vote, immigrants and permanent residents abroad however will have to execute an affidavit that they will permanently reside in the Philippines not later than three years from the approval of their voters' registration.

Those who have applied for foreign citizenship as well as those who have been convicted of a crime punishable by not less than a year in jail are barred from voting.

Interviewed after the signing, Commission on Elections chair Benjamin Abalos admitted they have yet to come up with a program of activities to implement the law.

The Comelec only has two months to come up with the implementing rules and regulations.

Abalos expects 4 to 5 million out of the 7.5 million OFWs in at least 100 countries to vote in 2004.

Just for the absentee voting they would need P2 billion, he said.

Speaker Jose De Venecia reportedly promised to insert a P1 billion supplemental allocation in the 2003 national budget.

"That's not enough. That's only for the preparations and probably the purchase of some equipment," Abalos said.

In order to vote, qualified OFWs first have to apply at the Philippine embassy or consulate in their host country.

All applications must be with the Comelec not later than 10 months before the May 2004 elections, or by August this year.

Only then would the voters registration start.

Asked when they would start receiving applications for registration, Abalos said they have not come up with the forms yet.

The Comelec has five months before the elections, or until January 2003, to act on all applications.

Top cell phone trader a fake Pinoy, says BI

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE OWNER of a leading mobile phone distributor may soon be kicked out of the country for allegedly using fake immigration and citizenship documents.

Leonardo Lee Villalon, president and chief executive officer of the Semicon Integrated Electronics Inc., distributor of Nokia cell phones, was arrested by immigration agents Tuesday inside his office in Pasig City.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said Villalon had been using a Philippine passport despite his registration as an alien in 1975.

Villalon obtained an alien certificate of registration from the Bureau of Immigration on Dec. 2, 1975 as a native-born Chinese. He used the name Leon Basilio Chua.

Domingo said investigators suspected that Villalon and Chua were the same person when Villalon applied for a Philippine passport.

The BI chief further said that the birth date and names of siblings registered by Villalon were the same ones in the ACR.

The name of parents, however, were different. BI records showed that Chua's parents were Chua Kang Hway and Lee Wan Yu, who are Chinese, while Villalon registered Filipino parents Jose Villalon and Juanita Lee.

Doctors want warnings on cold, cough medicines

By Armand Nocum

PROMINENT heart doctors have asked the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) to put warning labels on cough and cold medicines containing phenylpropanolamine, or PPA, which was found to be unsafe for people with heart problems.

Dr. Gregorio B. Patacsil Jr., head of the Philippine Society of Hypertension Inc. (PSH), described drugs containing PPA as "vasal constrictors," which tighten the blood vessels of people with heart ailments.

Patacsil gave credence to a Yale University study on the dangers of PPA, saying he had personal knowledge of how a PPA-laden cough medicine had caused his mother-in-law's blood pressure to shoot up dramatically.

"It was banned in the US . . . because of the well-known admitted vasal constrictor and other deleterious effects," he said, during the Joint 8th Annual Convention of the PSH and the Philippine Lipid Society held recently at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

The US Food and Drug Administration declared PPA unsafe after researchers at Yale found that taken in high doses, ingestion could lead to hemorrhagic stroke or bleeding in the brain.

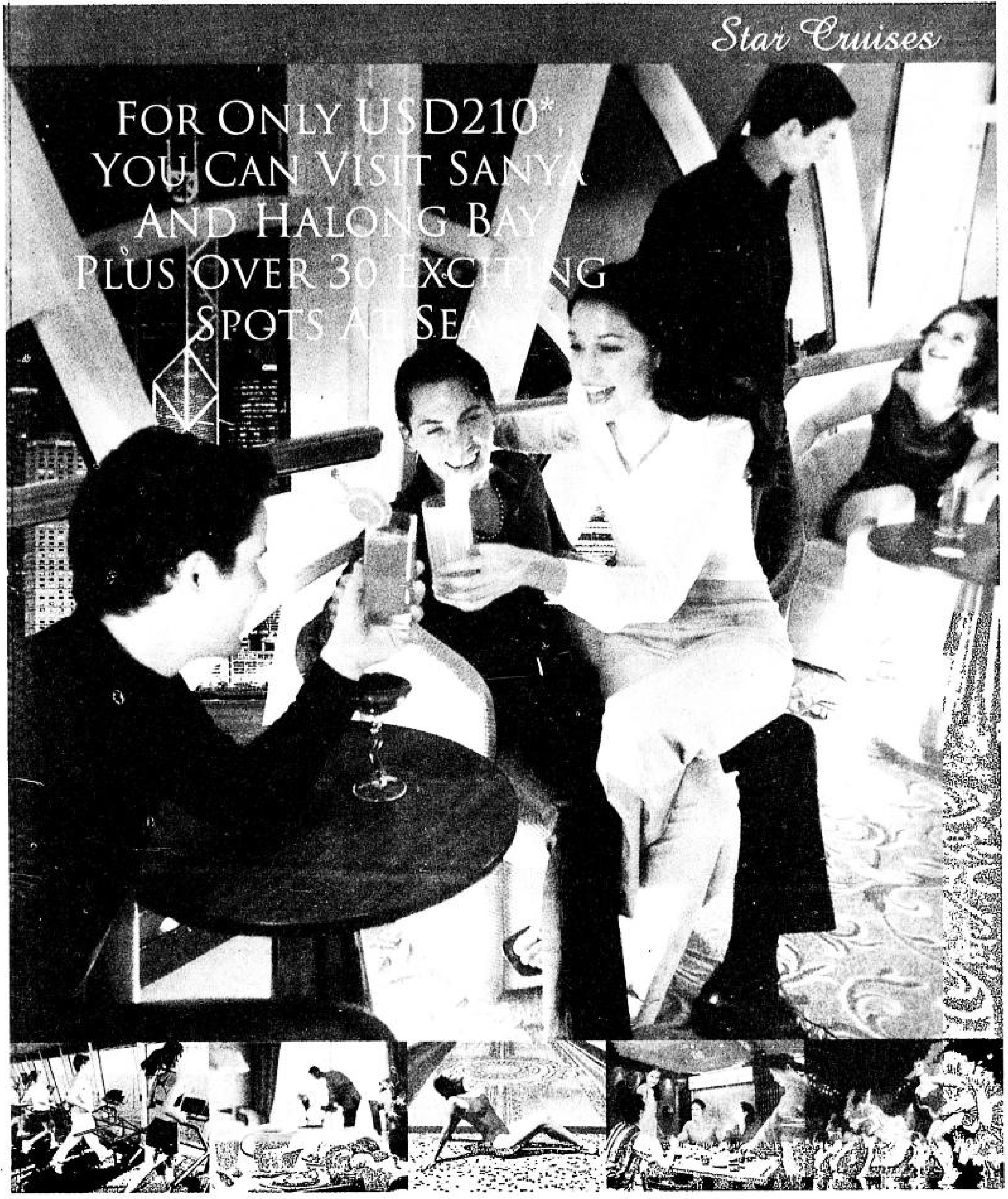
But the local BFAD had declared that medicines with PPA were safe. However, it is allowing only drugs containing 25 mg or less of the substance to be sold without a doctor's prescription.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit approved of the move, saying the Yale study was "flawed" because many of the respondents were African-American and very overweight people.

"Filipinos are not affected by PPA in the same way the Yale study said it affects Americans. There have been no cases of stroke here [caused by PPA]," he said.

Dr. Nelson Abelardo, PHS secretary, agreed with Patacsil about the warnings on drugs with PPA, but he said the last say should be with the doctors.

"The BFAD could issue advisories but overall I think the ultimate responsibility should be with the patient's physician," he said.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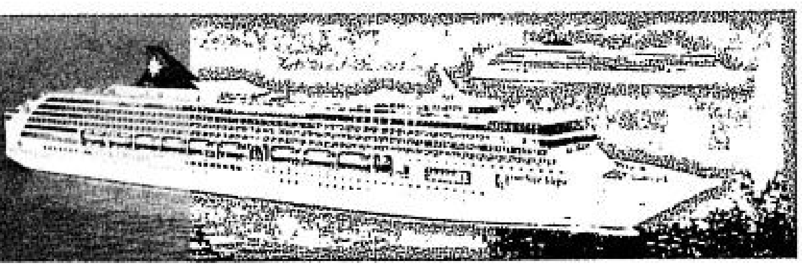

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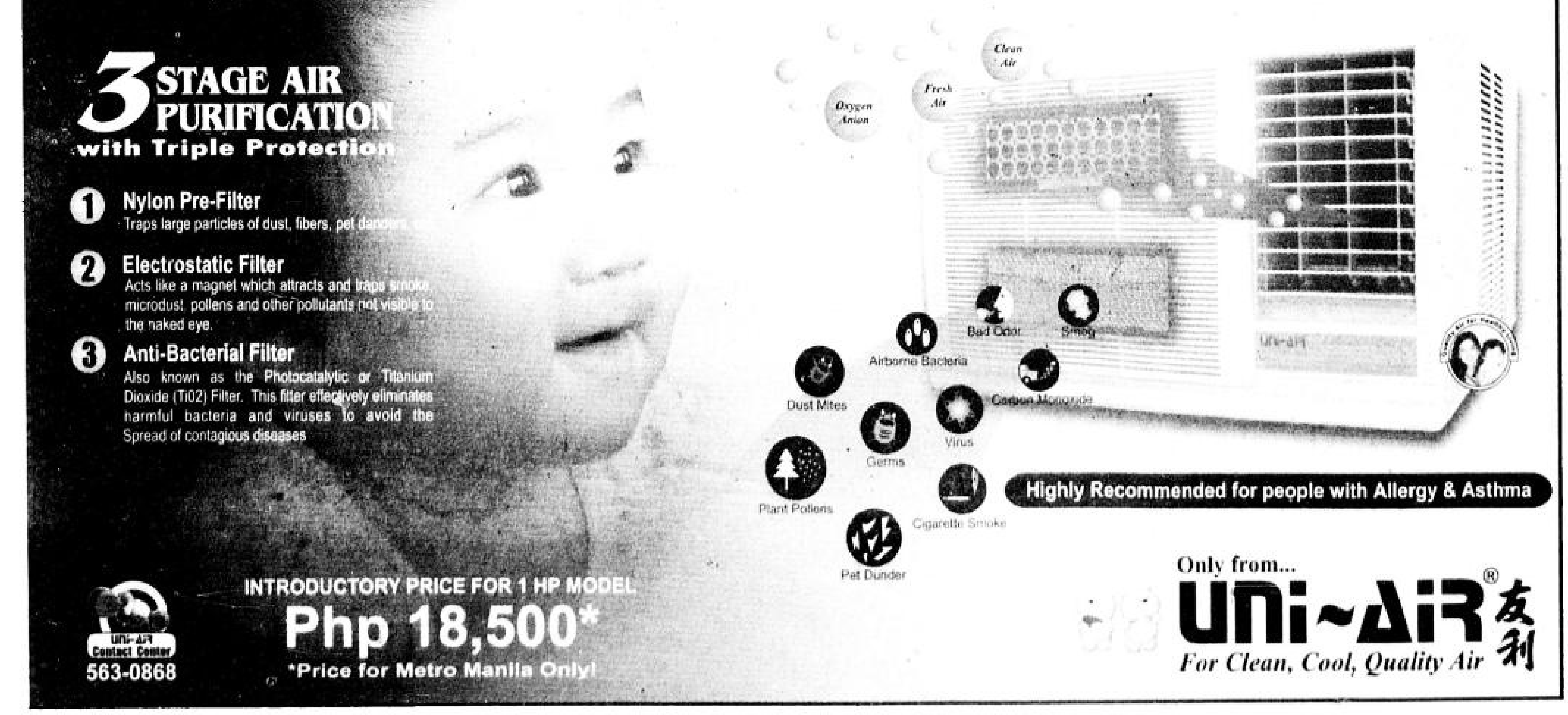

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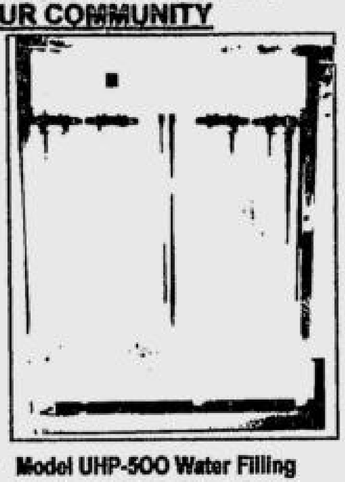

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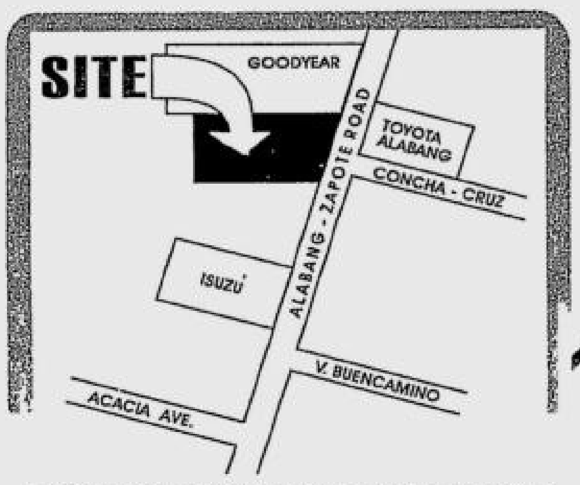

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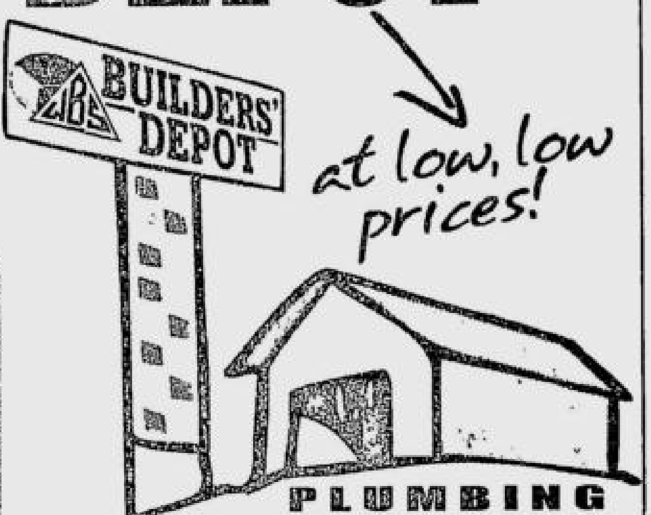

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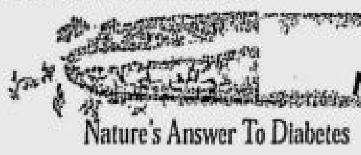

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

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Message delivered

Editorial

DEPENDING on who is talking, it is always the other side that is absorbing the heavier casualties in any war. After three days of fighting, a military spokesperson said yesterday, government forces had killed at least 97 rebels belonging to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front while suffering only four casualties. In one major battle Wednesday night in Lambayong, Sultan Kudarat, at least 25 rebels were killed when they attacked a military detachment, according to Brig. Gen. Generoso Senga, commander of the Philippine Army's 6th Infantry Division.

Surprisingly, the MILF confirmed that it had sustained heavy losses in that particular encounter. MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said their forces lost 28 men when the Army mounted a surprise attack on their position. This brought the number of fatalities on their side to a total of 33, he said. But he added that government forces lost 56 men, including an Army captain, while "tens of them have also been wounded."

Whatever the real score may be, the fact is that the fighting has escalated and spread. What began as a military assault on a rebel stronghold in Pikit, North Cotabato, suspected of providing sanctuary to the notorious Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom gang, has spawned a series of bloody ambuscades and clashes in at least five other places located in four provinces. And the fighting could go out of hand, with the MILF leadership giving free rein to their local commanders to decide what action to take against government forces.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said the military offensive was launched to "capture and occupy" the Buliok complex near Pikit which was being used as "the base of operations and refuge" of the Pentagon gang and other armed gangs. The offensive was "not directed against the MILF," she added. Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya, chief of the Southern Command, said, "We are running after the criminals: the Pentagon gang and the bombers who happen to have sought refuge in MILF areas. We are not after the MILF because we are aware that there are peace negotiations."

If that is the case, then the military is hitting the wrong targets. Both military and rebel spokespersons agree that the casualties on the rebel side—whether 157 or 33—were MILF guerrillas. Not a single Pentagon leader or member of any other criminal syndicate has been counted among the dead so far.

The fact is that war has broken out there, not just a shootout with criminal gangs, and rebels and soldiers are dying by the dozen. And it is going to bring more deaths to both sides and more suffering to tens of thousands of civilians who have to abandon their homes lest they be caught in the crossfire, unless sanity and good faith take over.

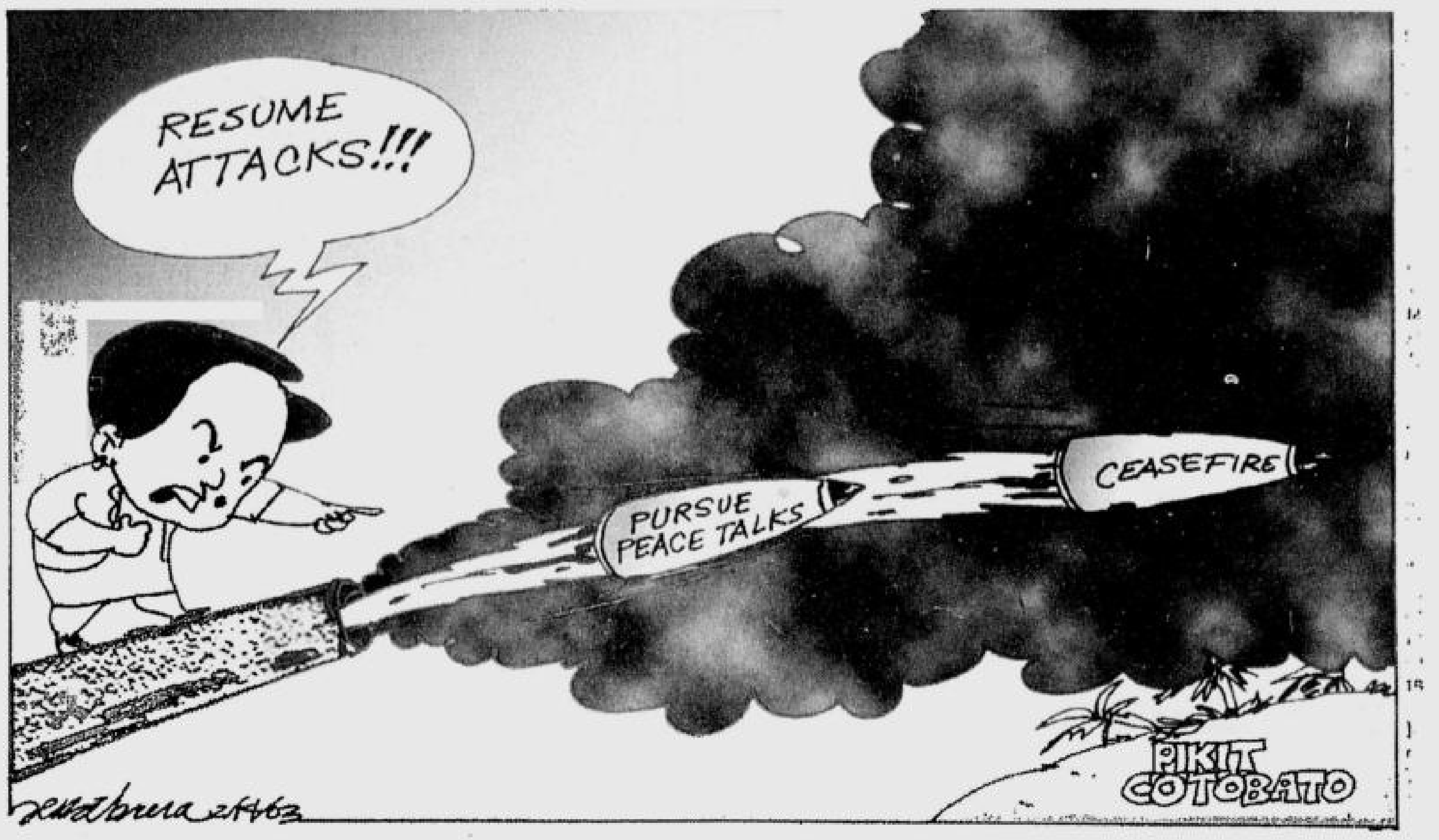
There is reason to hope that peace will soon return to that part of Mindanao. Abaya has said the operation could end in two or three days, meaning that the government had planned a limited engagement, not an all-out war. Which could mean that all it wanted was to send the message that it would no longer tolerate MILF coddling of kidnappers and other criminals.

If that is all, then that message has been delivered loud and clear. Now it is time to disengage.

Both sides know this is a war neither can win. If bullets alone could do it, the government would have finished it a long time ago. On the other hand, the MILF can't even hope to sustain for long an armed conflict on this scale, especially not when the attention of the whole Muslim world is focused on a possible invasion of Iraq by the United States and its allies. A war that can't be won is a war without end, unless both sides agree to give peace a chance.

The process of forging a peace agreement has been started. In fact, the government says it is rushing the draft of a peace agreement it plans to present to MILF negotiators. The MILF has also indicated that it is not closing the door to negotiations. However, MILF legal counsel Lanang Ali said, "It would be useless meeting while the troops on the ground continue shooting at each other."

Given the casualty figures it is touting, it would be tempting for the government to press its advantage. But unless a ceasefire is declared soon, it could find itself facing a problem worse than neutralizing the Pentagon gang. As the conflict spreads, the number of refugees has been mounting exponentially. There were already 58,000 of them as of yesterday. The herculean task of feeding and clothing them should give the cash-strapped government another reason to pause before it commits itself to the pursuit of the kind of victory that will never be within its grasp.



The rich get richer even after they retire

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

WILL you entrust your money to a person who claims he shook hands with the ghost of Juan Luna in Hong Kong? Will you have confidence in a man who sees himself and his three companions in a painting by Luna and makes much of the fact that his last name rhymes with that of the painter? What do you think of a man who believes it is significant that the figures of a woman in a Luna painting is shaped like the map of the Philippines?

That man is Winston Garcia, chief of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) which manages billions of pesos belonging to 1.4 million government workers. And he said all of the above in a press conference. Garcia is one of the highest paid executives in the government with a basic salary several times that of the President of the Philippines. Do you feel confident that he manages billions of pesos of the people's money?

Last Jan. 30 and 31, I quoted here reports by the Commission on Audit that two of the biggest government financial institutions, the GSIS and Social Security System (SSS), are in financial trouble, followed by the GSIS' excuses in the Feb. 5 and 6 columns. The COA reported that the GSIS has a P25 billion deficit in 2001 "and cannot meet its obligations to its 1.4 million members."

The GSIS admitted the accuracy of the COA's figures but that its losses are only "paper losses" suffered when the value of shares of stocks the GSIS bought declined in value. It said that when the market improves and the value of the stocks goes up, the GSIS will recover its losses.

Maybe, but when? And meanwhile the GSIS continues to suffer losses on the bad investments. The GSIS and SSS, since they are managing trust funds, are mandated by law to invest only in safe blue chip stocks, not in risky, speculative ones. But that's just what they did, took unjustified risks, and when the roof of the Asian economic crisis caved in, they were buried under.

But taking risks and bad judgment—and shaking hands with ghosts—are not the only sins of Garcia. He actually violated the law, Republic Act 8291, or the GSIS charter, when he removed the ceiling on the Average Monthly Compensation (AMC) and altered the formula for the computation of GSIS contributions without going to Congress for an amendment to the charter.

RA 8291 sets a ceiling on the AMC. Originally, the ceiling was P10,000. However, RA 8291 authorizes the GSIS to adjust the ceiling to make it more responsive to current economic situations. Several adjustments have already been made, the latest placing the ceiling at P16,000. The pension, however, cannot exceed 90 percent of the AMC, thus the maximum pension allowable with an AMC ceiling of P16,000 is P14,400.

The ceiling on the pension is a very important and indispensable actuarial control mechanism that ensures equity, or at least, fair distribution of the pension fund to all pensioners. Without it, inequity and distortion in the social security program will follow. The ceiling ensures that there will be no big gap between the pension of the high-salaried and the low-salaried employees. This is because the pension is a function of the Cost of Living and the Consumer Price Index and not the salary. Legally speaking, there is no provision in the law that says the GSIS can remove the ceiling.

But Garcia did remove the ceiling on the AMC effective January 2003. The removal will allow a very inequitable distribution of the pension fund among GSIS retirees. For example, an employee with a salary of P8,000 will get an increase of only 5 percent in his pension but an executive with a salary of P300,000 (and that includes Garcia and executives of the SSS and other government financial institutions) will get an increase of 1,727 percent.

Obviously, the removal of the ceiling will benefit retirees who were paid higher salaries when they were still employed. These group of retirees comprise only about 5 percent of the entire government work force. Those who receive P100,000 and above probably comprise only one percent or even less. These are employees of GFIs who have abused their exemptions from the salary standardization law.

If the intention was to alleviate the vast majority of government employees, then Garcia should have adjusted the ceiling to say P25,000 or even P40,000. This would have benefited the vast majority or 90 percent of the force and even of GSIS and SSS employees themselves because their pensions would have moved up from a maximum of P14,400 (or 90 percent of P16,000) to P36,000 (or 90 percent of P40,000).

It was a masterstroke on the part of Garcia to remove the ceiling because moving the AMC ceiling up to P100,000 would have attracted attention as the increase would have been obviously staggering coming from a minimal amount of P16,000. Raising the ceiling to P100,000 would have been criticized because everybody would have readily understood the preposterousness of a P100,000 ceiling as against the salary levels of the bulk of the entire government work force.

Removing the ceiling, however, camouflages the tremendous effect on the pension of employees receiving P100,000, P200,000, or even P300,000 salaries (like Garcia and Horacio Templo of the SSS) because there are no figures to compare before and after. The bulk of GSIS members who receive salaries in the P8,000-P10,000 range probably are not even aware that there is such a group of government employees who receive salaries in the hundreds of thousands of pesos a month.

As previously mentioned, the reason for putting a ceiling on the AMC is to ensure that the pension fund is equitably and fairly distributed among the current pensioners. No one retiree or group of retirees should receive amounts which are unjustifiably more than the average amount received by the vast majority of retirees.

(To be continued)

Slow

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

THE TALK at the airport in the province drifted to choices. I asked a friend of mine, a priest who ran a local university, if he missed the big city. He was born and raised in Manila, and lived in Manila for most of his life before being assigned to the province. He laughed and said no. He hadn't just adjusted to his new situation in life, he had embraced it like something sought for all one's life, if in the recesses of the soul, and finally discovered. In fact, he said, he had begun to mind meetings in Manila, such as the one he was flying to, which was why he was at the airport. On those occasions, he said, he just did what he had to do with as much dispatch as he could, and flew back. Not a second longer.

I told him I met the bishop of the place some years before and he seemed to have caught that spirit too. He had fallen for the charms of the place, finding it the next best thing to heaven on earth. The people were friendly and neighborly, there was little crime to speak of, and the faithful fell into the throes of religious fervor, or ecstasy, during the fiesta and holy days. Of course what his politics were, which made him thrill to the spectacle of these depths of piety, was another story. But he, too, despite the no-small temptations of the capital, chief of them the certainty of rising even higher in the Church hierarchy, could no longer dream of leaving the place.

Another friend was at the airport, and had a slightly different story to tell. She went to the province a week out of every month to attend to some things but stayed in Metro Manila the rest of the time, where her family and work were. At first, she said, she was glad at the opportunity to go to the province, which was her hometown. But when it became regular, drudgery settled in at the edges. It was fine when she saw some old faces. Other times, well, there was an aging and ailing mother to visit, so that gave her a more compelling reason to keep coming home. "Coming home" only in a sense because home was really now Manila. Though she remained thankful to be able to fly to her province regularly, she couldn't dream of giving everything up and relocating there.

I said I myself thought last year of relocating to the province, life in the city having gotten to my nerves. But that lasted only briefly. I found out that the rhythms of the province, while fine in the beginning, were no longer something I could sway for long periods of time. After a while, I longed for the riot and helter-skelter of life where I lived. For all its grime and slime, life had a way of pushing through with a pugnacity that was not beyond being beheld as beautiful. Besides, I'd have been alone. My hometown, like most other hometowns, is glorious only if you have memories sunk there, ready to suffuse you like the glow of sunset once you tread its earth. It has no such allures for those who have no emotional investment in it. "I don't want to go back there," someone put it to me quite bluntly.

I did not change my mind, however, I said, because I thought life in the big city was fuller, more vibrant, and more conducive to accomplishment than the one in the province. That was an important thing. I did not consider the frenetic activity, the hustle and bustle, the rush to get to places in more ways than one, an addition to life, like spice. If anything, I thought it was a waste, like pestilence. I think it was Einstein who said we often mistake motion for action. I believe it completely. The rapid shifting from one thing to another, for the most part out of duress rather than choice, does not make us do more, it makes us do less. It does not replenish us, it wears us down.

Completely serendipitously, I was reading a slim novel by Milan Kundera at the time called "Slowness." It is a tragicomic, despairingly witty, paean to, well, as its title says, slowness. At one point, after contemplating an act of seduction that took place a couple of centuries before in the French villa he is staying (it was the woman who seduced the man with an artistic expertness worthy of Don Juan), the narrator says: "There is a secret bond between slowness and memory, between speed and forgetting...In existential mathematics, that experience takes the form of two basic assumptions: the degree of slowness is directly proportional to the intensity of memory; the degree of speed is directly proportional to the degree of forgetting."

Lest you think the novel contains only passages like that, it does not, it is a darkly funny look at life. Those meditations are the fun part. But easy to sympathize with it: You look at life around you, and you realize how we often mistake speed for accomplishment, quantity for fullness, accumulation for wealth. We are possessed by the demon of speed—probably even in sex. We have forgotten the art of being slow.

Part of the symptom of the disease is the lack of ability to pause and contemplate what has happened or is happening, to step back and be beholder and participant at the same time. We just pass willy nilly from one thing to the other until we reach middle age, or old age, and are stunned to find ourselves where we are. I remember writing a column a long time ago about middle age: I said I found it strangely comic that every time people turn contemplative, or take stock of their lives, they are presumed to be suffering from middle-aged blues. Isn't that a pathetic commentary on our times, that self-examination or the quiet interrogation of self has to be the symptom of a disease called middle-age? If so then youth is wasted on the young in more ways than we know. Maybe that's why I never got to being middle-aged. I was always in the thick of it.

I've always managed to be—slow.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Curbing US hegemony

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

VALENTINE'S Day today is not for the soft-hearted. Hovering above the commercialism of this feast is the moment of truth when the chiefs of the United Nations weapons inspectors in Iraq—Hans Blix and Mohamed Al-Baradei—report to the Security Council today on whether Iraq is cooperating enough in the inspectors' search for hidden weapons of mass destruction.

The inspectors returned to Iraq after US Secretary of State Colin Powell made a presentation at the council on Feb. 5, detailing new evidence that Iraq has "made no effort...to disarm as required by the international community."

Iraq has opened a window for cooperation slightly by allowing spy plane overflights and interviews of its scientists without "minders." But a significant change of heart and climb down by Iraq seems impossible in two weeks. And Blix and Al-Baradei will report whether they have received sufficient encouragement from Iraq to justify further inspection. The inspectors can avail of another round of inspection until Feb. 28—i.e., if they decide they have not reached the end of the road.

Even before the first shot igniting war in Iraq has been fired, the impasse over Iraq has already thrown into disarray two Western coalitions—the historically transatlantic alliance that solidified the democracies in the post-World War II years and the security alliance, Nato. The intensity of the tensions between the US, allied to Britain, and the three main European powers—France, Germany and Russia—has been as heated as the antagonism of the US toward Iraq.

Saddam Hussein of Iraq and Osama bin Laden of al-Qaida, especially the latter, need not stir up the Islamic world into frenzy against the West. The Western alliance is cracking at the seams from the conflict among the allies themselves stemming from what the Europeans fear the "preemptive strike" doctrine of President George W. Bush and the unilateralist tendencies of the US in eliminating security threats defined by the US, without consensus from its historic Western allies.

Bin Laden talks about a religious war with the US, giving it historical reference by recalling the Christian crusades and invasion of Islamic lands from the 11th century. The First Crusade was launched by Pope Urban II in 1095 at Clermont, France, the staging point of the expeditions of Christian armies to regain the Holy Land. By reducing the war with America into a religious conflict, Bin Laden's religious fervor is no different from that of Bush who has been criticized by some Western intellectuals as investing the war policy on Iraq with a fundamentalist religious mantle inspired by the Old Testament.

But Bush's religious seal to wage war on Iraq does not have the blessings of Pope John Paul II, and by distancing himself from the US' rush to war, the Pope has stripped the US war policy of some degree of moral legitimacy.

The tensions between the leading European powers and the Anglo-US alliance over the approach to disarming Iraq have, in fact, been transformed into a conflict between democracies and among mainly Christian countries. At the Security Council, a bruising battle looms as France, Germany and Russia prepare to introduce a resolution seeking more time for inspections and strengthening the inspectors, and as the US and Britain prepare a counter-resolution seeking an early vote on a second resolution authorizing military action on Iraq.

Germany has taken over the presidency of the Security Council, and, unlike in the 1991 Gulf War resolution, the council today faces veto on second resolution from anyone of the three permanent Security Council members—France, Germany or Russia.

The Nato is in tatters as France, Germany and Belgium vetoed proposals to prepare Turkey against a possible attack by Iraq. For the first time since the end of World War II, Germany has demonstrated the will and the independence to get out of the suffocating embrace of US hegemony wrapping around the transatlantic alliance.

In showing solidarity with France in the UN debate over Iraq, German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder has shown that his repudiation of Bush's war policy during the autumn's German elections was not a fluke decision intended to snatch victory from the conservative Christian Democratic-Christian Social Union challenge. Schroeder tapped the undercurrent of anti-Americanism in Germany, fueled by resentment over American unilateral hegemony and the deep-seated pacificism of a nation that had been bled by two world wars within half a century.

Schroeder's consistency has a deeper conviction than just political opportunism, and Bush and Defense Secretary Ronald Rumsfeld are discovering to their grief that the matter of war and peace requires consultation and consensus with allies and cannot be decided solely by a hegemony which decides the rules of military intervention in and engagement with countries tagged as threats primarily to the US and secondarily to democracies.

In seeking a second UN resolution authorizing it to go to war, the US has overturned a historical doctrine that has guided democracies in two world wars—that democracies don't attack one another and, more importantly, they don't attack first. They fight in response to attacks—as the allied declaration of war when Germany invaded Poland in September 1939, and the American declaration of war in response to the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 8, 1941.

The breach of this doctrine is at the heart of the deep and widening rift of the transatlantic alliance. The leading European democracies find this new doctrine disturbing and offensive because it reduces them into American vassals being led to war against the strong current of public opinion in Europe which argues that war should be the last option in resolving conflict and that military intervention should be backed by the international community and the legitimacy of a new UN resolution authorizing war.

Not just romance

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WE can blather on about romance and true love and finding your soul mate, but we know what's on your mind today—or rather, tonight, hmmm?

Motel owners and room boys know what I'm talking about, and so do ardent lovers who're counting the hours until the moment of truth. And when that moment does arrive, wanna bet that contraception will be the last thing on your minds?

Which is why I'm hoping you're reading this in the cold clear light of morning, while there's still time to rush out to the drugstore or drop by the nearest clinic or health center. Old fogeys like me like to drop words like "responsible sexual behavior," as if in the heat of passion "responsibility" ever pops into the minds of the, er, principals. As lovers down the ages can testify, lust has a way of clouding the mind.

But on this day, when you and your loved one have gone to all the trouble to plan your beauty routines, the restaurant reservations, the flowers and chocolates, the motel room and even the tip for the room boy, shouldn't one or both of you have at least given thought to what will happen afterwards?

I'm not talking about the "will you still respect me in the morning?" scenario. Rather, I'm talking about the possibility of an unwanted and unplanned pregnancy and/or a sexually transmitted infection. Both are possible even outside of Valentine's, but won't it be particularly sad that a day wrapped in such dreamy visions of romance should come to such a tawdry end?

There's a study, in fact, that shows young people are perfectly capable of making rational decisions about their relationships and their future, but are derailed once romance begins to wrap everything in a cloudy tulle veil. As many a young man has found out, the surest way to get a girl to give it up is to declare you love her and promise her marriage. And because visions of marching down the aisle in her wedding gown begin to dance in her head, the young woman can't allow such mundane concerns as contraception to intrude on the lovely prospect.

* * *

BUT she must. Who knows, once she gives a thought to protection, our young woman might just snap out of the fog of romantic illusion. And the young man? I don't know. Would it be in his best interests to let reality intrude on the way to his latest sexual conquest? Actually, it would. But would he have the power to let reason reign over hormones?

In the United States, there's a controversy over President Dubya's decision to increase federal funding for sex education classes that focus on "abstinence only" for teens. I happen to agree that if you can't handle the consequences of sex, then you shouldn't be indulging in it. But the whole rigmarole of love and sex and searching for a significant other is not a lesson in logic. I believe our young people need and have the right to know all the necessary tools and maps as they navigate their way through life. Which is why I would support "abstinence plus," telling young people that it's in their best interests to postpone, at least until they're adults, their sexual initiation, but giving them all the information they need and want about protection. Beyond that, I would also work on building up the self-esteem of young women and men, convincing them that they're capable of living up to their potentials, so that they think it worth delaying their gratifications today for worthier rewards tomorrow.

* * *

BUT we were going to talk contraception, right?

A woman's contraceptive needs vary across her lifetime, says Dr. Jill Schwartz, quoted in an article in WebMD. And as she gets older, as her situation and health changes, her preferences will change. "The more options available, the greater the likelihood of each woman's finding a fit," says Schwartz.

"Women in their teens are at especially high risk for sexually transmitted infections," says the article, "and even if you think you're in a monogamous relationship, your partner might not." For young sexually active couples, who may have little opportunity to plan their sexual encounters or secure medical advice on contraception, experts advise using the condom.

Although the pill is the most popular contraceptive for teenagers in the United States, notes the article, "they don't always use it well." Teen-age girls have higher failure rates (failing to take the pill every day at more or less the same time) than older women, studies have shown. Which is why more viable alternatives might be the new contraceptive "patch" which needs to be changed weekly, injectables which last from a month to three months, or the contraceptive "ring" that is inserted vaginally and replaced about every three weeks.

* * *

THE CHOICE of contraceptives for a woman in her 20s, says the article, depends on how she might answer these questions:

- **Are you in a monogamous relationship?**
- **Are you interested in having children? How soon?**
- **Have you already had children?**

If you're monogamous and not planning to conceive for a year or more, doctors recommend an IUD that provides protection against pregnancy for as long as 10 years. "It's very easy. Once it's inserted, you don't have to think about it again for five or 10 years, depending on which type you're using." After having an IUD inserted, however, a woman must come for a check up every month for the first few months, and must see a doctor or health personnel at the first sign of trouble: abdominal cramping, heavy bleeding, or if she can't detect the IUD's "tail" which means it's been dislodged.

However, "if you're not in a mutually monogamous relationship, things haven't changed much from the warning of your teen years: Use condoms."

Rizal's first love and mush

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

JUST thinking of the traffic gridlock tonight gives me heartburn. Valentine's Day *na*, pay day *pa*. No matter how hard you avoid the malls, restaurants and motels across the city, chances are you will get caught in traffic so it's best to celebrate quietly at home with or without a Valentine date. When Feb. 14 comes along I often think of columns to write—love lives of heroes, 19th century formulas for love letters or love potions, pre-colonial courtship and sexual practices, even documented archival records on necrophilia and bestiality. When desperate for a column I turn to three ready sources on my shelf: the 25-volumes of Jose Rizal's complete writings, the 5-volume compilation of documents on "The Philippine Insurrection Against the United States," and of course the 55-volume compilation of documents on the Philippine islands known more popularly under the names of the editors as "Blair and Robertson."

Just recently I was talking with National Artist Arturo Luz whose grandmother, Segunda Katigbak of Lipa, Batangas, was Rizal's first love. After speaking to Luz, I decided to write on Rizal's juvenile diary and the events of April to December 1877. This diary is known under the title "Memorias de un estudiante de Manila." It is significant that Rizal on the cover page hid under the pseudonym "P. Jacinto," but elsewhere in the manuscript signs his real name. Is this what we call a Freudian slip? Although the entries for 1877 were actually written four years later, it is surprising that Rizal does more than record what happened to him, he also records his emotions. For many of us who have known a national hero of bronze and stone, someone who is best remembered in textbooks and monuments, these excerpts on his first love might provide something to talk about during Valentine's dinner.

The diary is rather mushy and the chapter opens: "Wake up, heart, kindle again your extinguished fire so that in its warmth you may remember that time which I dare not judge. Go, thinking mind, and go again through those places, recall those moments in which you drank together with the nectar the bitter gall of love and disappointment." We can skip to the description of Segunda as:

"...A girl of about fourteen years, fresh, pleasant, winsome...she was short with expressive eyes, ardent at times, and drooping at other times, pinkish, a smile so bewitching and provocative that revealed some very beautiful teeth; with an air of a sylph, I don't know what alluring something was all over her being. She was not the most beautiful woman I had seen but I had never seen one more bewitching and alluring. They told me to sketch her, but I excused myself because really I didn't know. Finally they compelled me and I drew a grotesque picture. I played chess and whether due to the lady with her fiancé or I was distracted seeing her or I was flattered or I didn't know, the fact was I lost! Now and then she looked at me and I blushed. At last they talked about novels and other things about literature and then I took part in the conversation with advantage..."

Rizal's sister Olimpia was a student at the Colegio de la Concordia where Segunda was a boarder. When Rizal would go and visit Olimpia, her friend Segunda would keep them company. On their first meeting Rizal remembers that, "As I had nothing to say to her nor had I the honor of being introduced to her, besides my bashfulness as a collegian, I didn't address her except a ceremonious and silent bow to which she responded with admirable grace and delicacy...No incident occurred to us worth mentioning."

Segunda was engaged and yet she opened herself to Rizal's affections. One of their conversations is recorded as follows:

"I don't know how our conversation began, but I do remember that she asked me what flowers I liked best. I told her that I liked all, but that I preferred the white and the black ones. She told me that she liked the white and the pink ones and she became pensive; but later she added:

"'Yes, I also like the black ones.'

"I kept quiet.

"'Have you a sweetheart?' She asked me after a moment of silence.

"'No,' I replied 'I never thought of having one because I know too well that no one would pay attention to me, especially the beautiful ones.'

"'Why, is it possible? You deceive yourself! Do you want me to get you one?'

"'Thanks, Miss' I told her; 'but I don't want to bother you.' I remembered at that moment that she would marry her uncle the following December, and then I asked her:

"'Do you go back to your town in December?'

"'No,' she answered me dryly.

"'They say that in your town a very big feast will be celebrated in which you will take an important part and it is possible that it will not be held without your attendance.'

"'No,' she replied, and she smiled. 'My parents want me to go home but I should not like to do so, for I wish to stay in college for five years more.'

"Little by little I was imbibing the sweetest poison of love as the conversation continued. Her glances were terrible, for their sweetness and expressiveness...From time to time a languid ray penetrated my heart and I felt something that until then was unknown to me..."

The mere thought of Rizal blushing, of his fumbling attempts at courtship makes some people uncomfortable. This may all seem trivial on the surface but I think that to know Rizal as a human being is to appreciate his greatness. To know that he was human like you and me helps us realize our own capacity for greatness.

* * *

Comments to aocampo@ateneo.edu. ph

First love never dies?

AT 71, it warms my heart to get in touch with old friends from way back. Friends are what we need in life regardless of status, age and circumstances. That is why even in retirement I treasure friends, new friends or old ones, be they young or old, rich or poor, near to me or far. With old friends we reminisce those long-ago days of our youth when we experienced the first stirrings of love.

HIGH BLOOD

Raymunda P. Ortega

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

Like a bolt of lightning, a few weeks ago I received a phone call from someone I had lost touch with for 50 years or more. In the early 1950s she was one of my best friends. She was my classmate at the Philippine College of Commerce (now PUP or Polytechnic University of the Philippines). We shared secrets, we shared joys and sorrows, we shared hardships trying to get good grades in school, and later we shared the travails of job-hunting after graduation. Yes, Bessie was my best friend in college. I knew her very first boyfriend, a nice, intelligent young man named Mel. I saw how very much in love they were with each other. Those were the days when sweethearts really were in love, respecting each other's dignity without one taking advantage of the other. Men during our time nurtured and protected their sweethearts' innocence, and expected them to be pure virgins when they walk down the aisle on their wedding day.

I got married a year after finishing college, and soon thereafter, my best college chum, Bessie, migrated to the United States with her family. I heard before she left that she had already broken up with her first love, Mel. For what reason, I never knew. Bessie and I then lost touch with each other. Even with the two instances in the 1990s that I had the chance to go on a tour of the United States with my husband, I didn't have the opportunity to contact her so we could have renewed old ties and kept abreast of the happenings in our present lives. I knew, however, that shortly after she left her boyfriend, Mel had gotten married, raised a family and became a successful insurance executive.

Then out of the blue one morning before Christmas, I was so pleasantly surprised to hear her voice over the phone. She asked me if I still remembered her. She said that she had come home to visit and spend Christmas with her kin in the Philippines. She inquired from mutual friends how she could contact me and renew old ties of friendship. Reminiscing about the past, I was a bit shocked when she suddenly asked me: "You do believe that first love never ever dies, do you?" At first, I couldn't make heads or tails of what she was trying to tell me, so I shot back: "Hey, we're both in our 70s and you have to ask such a question? Why, that is to be expected only from young romantics less than half our age!" Then she sadly told me, "You see, even after all these years I hadn't forgotten Mel, my first boyfriend when we were in college. Now that I'm here on a visit I tried contacting him, the way I have made contact with you and our other classmates and friends. And do you know, I was so heartbroken to hear that this first love of mine had already passed away a couple of years ago?" Bessie then went on recalling her past—the happy times with Mel, their closeness to each other, their petty quarrels which she called "*tampuhan*" and how they would kiss and make up afterwards. She regretted that because of such "*tampuhans*" she eventually lost the love of Mel to someone else; because of pride she threw away what she termed "a really, really valuable treasure." She told me their breakup happened shortly before she left for the United States. Through the years she had kept Mel's memory in her heart and had never stopped wondering: "What if...?"

Her confessions set me wondering and I asked her all about her present marital status. She hastily assured me she and her husband, also a Filipino whom she married in the United States, have a healthy marriage; she has five grownup children with families of their own and she is now a grandmother many times over. So, I really thought it surprising, if not odd, to hear she has not forgotten her first boyfriend and that she still feels strongly about him. What would she have done had Mel still been around today? Would she have introduced him to her husband, the father of her grownup children, as her first love which would never ever die? Would her husband love her enough to accept and understand her confession?

Which set me thinking about us who are in our senior years. How many of us who are past middle-age would be honest and candid enough like Bessie to admit we still nurture a soft spot in our hearts for a certain someone who played an important role in our younger years? Would we brush aside such thoughts as just mere symptoms of old age and senility? Maybe we would just consider them foolish fantasies of those glorious years when we looked at the world through rose-colored glasses. Do we believe that first love never ever dies?

Raymunda P. Ortega, 71, is a retired government employee and former president of the Pastoral Council of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Quezon City.

THEY SAID

What interest?

"What national interest is served by the President's policy statements that hew closely to the Bush doctrine on Iraq? None whatsoever. On the contrary, it has not benefited us any."

—Sen. Joker Arroyo

Fighting against war

"One must not resign oneself, as if the war were inevitable."

—Pope John Paul II calling for peace

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Appalled by GMA support of US war

IT'S really appalling that President Macapagal-Arroyo saw it fit to issue a call on the United Nations (to "use force against Iraq should it refuse to disarm, or lose credibility"). The President's statement is essentially an attack against the peace-making efforts of people all over the world, not just in the Philippines. There is something deeply contemptible about a leader who knowingly, willingly supports the cause of death and suffering of hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians in a foreign country.

President Macapagal now joins the ranks of other leaders like British Prime Minister Tony Blair who abet and support genocide in Iraq. Using executive prerogative, she did not consult Congress on what stand the country should take regarding the United States' most unjust and inhumane war. She instead, as she is wont to always do, consulted a foreign power, the source of war itself, the United States and its representatives in the country.

The Filipino people don't want this war, millions of citizens of the world don't want this war, so why is President Macapagal supporting the US war effort and even goading the United Nations to use force on Iraq? If there's any country in the world who should disarm, it's the United States. Someone better tell the President that it's the US government that should be compelled to disarm because it's the United States that's threatening to unleash war against Iraq, using the very same weapons of mass destruction that it is supposedly trying to save the world from.

—REP. CRISPIN BELTRAN,
Bayan Muna Party List,
paggawa@edsamail.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

What's the fuss about English?

RESTORING English as the medium of instruction will help push this country forward. It will not make our youth anti-Filipino but rather more globally competitive. For the language of competitiveness of the world is English. It is about reaping benefits for being the second largest English-speaking nation of the world.

If our students' low ranking in the 1995 survey is anything to go by, we ought to move to save our children's future. If progress is about knowledge, and knowledge is generally transmitted through the English language, then it follows that we should not deprive our young of this tool.

The only question to ask is: Has our use of Filipino as a medium of instruction produced more national benefits? If we are not going to totally give up Filipino, then what's the problem? If we are only going to institute changes to keep pace with the knowledge-economy, then what's the fuss all about?

—DODO RA. CAGAS,
Estrada 3rd Street,
Digos City, Davao del Sur

No to war in Iraq or Pikit

IT is in the papers' front pages that President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered that the Armed Forces of the Philippines' attacks in Pikit, North Cotabato be halted. This, however, is only in observance of the Muslim holidays. There is still no clear sign as to when the attacks would permanently end.

We, at the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP), want to ask if we missed out on President Macapagal's formal declaration of an all-out war against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. We are also wondering why the ceasefire agreement between the government and the MILF is not being observed.

More than 20,000 individuals, including women, children and the elderly, have been displaced because of the war in Mindanao. Isn't this great volume reason enough for the President to order the military to pull out its troops from Pikit? Isn't this great volume reason enough for the President to withdraw support for the US war against Iraq, where there would definitely be more people, Filipinos included, who will be affected?

We echo the call of other non-government organizations in appealing to the parties in conflict to seriously desist from actions that would ignite another full-blown war in Pikit and in Central Mindanao.

Nothing can become of the war in Mindanao. Nothing can become of the US war against Iraq. War will only violate the people's right to peace and development. "It will just lead to the defeat of humanity."

—AURORA A. PARONG, M.D.
executive director, Task Force
Detainees of the Philippines,
19 Malingap St.,
Teachers' Village, Quezon City

THE VAGINA ECONOMY

THE ISSUE IS TRAFFICKING OF YOUNG FILIPINO WOMEN

We do not intend to belabor the issues raised by the profit-driven Philippine Association of Recruitment Agencies Deploying Artists (PARADA) because these are already being handled by the proper forums the Office of the Ombudsman, Congress and even the Fact-Finding Committee of the TESDA Board of Trustees.

We would rather deal on why DOLE Undersecretary Lucila Lazo admitted to media that government lends a veneer of legitimacy to the sending of young girls for the sex trade in Japan. We would rather ask why DOLE, with a woman secretary, has failed to stop what Lazo described as government policy of implied approval of this illegal trade. More than illegal, it is cause for national shame.

HOW THIS SHAME STARTED. It is best to understand how this controversial Artist Record Book (ARB) started. In the tourism boom of '70s, the Philippines became a favorite destination for Japanese sex tours.

Then the Japanese took these young girls to their country for "better control." The girls pioneered what would be known as Philippine pubs which took over the popularity of the "pink bars and no-pan (for no-panties) kisas" in Japan.

There was big demand for Filipino bar girls and Philippine labor officials connived with recruiters in petitioning the Japanese immigration to grant them work permits. With government and private sector connection intact, control over trafficking of women was absolute.

Japanese media concocted the name "Japayuki". These were very young girls, some age 12, arrested prostitutes in raids of brothels in Japan. "Japayuki" rhymed with "karayuki," meaning in Japanese women sold to brothels abroad before World War 2.

COVERS FOR LEGITIMACY. The Philippine government provided the cover to save Japan from the embarrassment of hosting Filipino prostitutes. The government made them appear like performing artists, sent to Japan as entertainers. We know better than that.

This cover evolved from the yellow card in the "80s, to the plastic blue card, then the white card. Then came the certification of clubs instead of the cards, leading to the proliferation of Japanese bars in the country. Then came the ARB.

The number of Filipinos in Japan jumped from a little over 5,000 in 1990 to a high of 180,000 Filipino women working as cultural entertainers and domestic helpers.

Until the new TESDA management tightened the screw. Now the industry is howling in pain. PARADA, the biggest in the industry, is like the Mafia which has all the money to spread lies.

THE ISSUE HERE IS NOT THE LEADERSHIP IN TESDA. THE ISSUE IS TRAFFICKING OF YOUNG WOMEN. YOUNG, BECAUSE SECRETARY PAT STO. TOMAS BROUGHT DOWN THE MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENT FROM 21 TO 18, THE BETTER TO PLEASE THE JAPANESE CUSTOMERS.

THESE WOMEN WHO HAVE BECOME MERCHANDISE ARE ABUSED, PACKED LIKE SARDINES IN DORMITORIES, AND UNDERPAID.

THE ISSUE HERE IS DECEPTION AND VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THE ISSUE IS CONTROL OF THE FLESH TRADE MASQUERADING AS LEGITIMATE INDUSTRY BY JAPANESE NATIONALS USING FILIPINO DUMMIES.

THE REAL ISSUE IS GRAND-SCALE TAX EVASION, DEPRIVING THE GOVERNMENT OF BILLIONS OF PESOS IN TAXES FROM WHAT USEC LUCILA LAZO DESCRIBED AS VAGINA ECONOMY. THERE IS A POTENTIAL P5.25 BILLION IN TAXES A YEAR THAT SHOULD BE COLLECTED FROM RECRUITERS AND PROMOTERS, AND WE CALL ON BIR COMMISSIONER GUILLERMO PARAYNO AND THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS TO INVESTIGATE THE BOOKS OF ACCOUNTS OF PARADA MEMBERS TO SEE FOR THEMSELVES.

The only purpose of PARADA's full page ad against TESDA's management is trial by publicity, hoping to sway the forthcoming report of the Fact-Finding Committee.

IF THE STO. TOMAS-LAZO TANDEM, WOMEN AS THEY ARE, CANNOT RISE TO THE OCCASION TO DEFEND FILIPINO WOMANHOOD, THEY HAVE NO REASON TO REMAIN ONE MINUTE LONGER AT THE DOLE. WE DEMAND THE RESIGNATION OF THE STO. TOMAS-LAZO TEAM IF THEY CONTINUE TO TRIFLE WITH THE LIVES OF VERY YOUNG GIRLS BEING EXPORTED AS MERCHANDISE IN THE SEX TRADE ABROAD.

We call on the Catholic Church, all the church leaders in the Philippines and in Japan, the civil society, our senators and congressmen, our local government leaders and all decent and right-thinking Filipinos to stand up against this national shame.

We join MIGRANTE INTERNATIONAL, GABRIELA AND BAYAN MUNA in calling for the immediate scrapping of the ARB System and the unbridled trafficking of Filipino women abroad.

We believe that this can be effected with the change of leadership at the Department of Labor and Employment.

Let us all destroy this national disgrace. Stop the trafficking of women correctly described by Labor Undersecretary Lazo as the "Vagina Economy."

OUR NATIONAL HONOR IS PRICELESS. WE MUST DEFEND IT AT ALL COST, AT ALL TIMES.

MOVEMENT FOR RESPONSIBLE ENTERPRISE (MORE)

(SGD)RAY L. JUNIA
Chairman

(SGD)ALBINO CAPIDOS
Secretary General

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

A ban on nurses working abroad?

SINCE there is currently an exodus of nurses going abroad to fill a grave shortage of nurses in many developed countries, there has been a proposal that seeks to bar doctors and nurses from working overseas until they have served for at least two years in the country. This is another example of trying to solve a problem in patches instead of going about it the right way, which is usually the more difficult route. Why would you deny a person his right to work where he chooses? Why deny a person an opportunity to better his life? Besides these, what good would forcing a nurse to work in the Philippines for two years do? He would just get valuable experience, which he will take to another country anyway.

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

Also, the Philippines is not the only country with nurses. If the Philippines cannot supply, say, the United States with the nurses they so desperately need, they will get them from other countries like India and China which also have a sizable English-speaking population. So this proposal would have only succeeded not only in robbing the Filipino nurse of a chance for a better life but also of much needed dollars that the Philippines would receive when an overseas worker sends money home.

What the government should do is to launch a full-scale promotion for the study of nursing for high school graduates so that many more Filipinos would consider nursing as a career. The point is, if we could produce more than enough nursing graduates, the Philippines would be able to supply the local need for nurses as well as the foreign need for them. That way everybody will benefit.—**kakui**

* * *

Nurses and doctors should stay at least five years, but only those who graduate from state universities, which are heavily subsidized by the government and therefore by the taxpayers. They should serve in rural areas.

Those who graduate from private schools and pay their tuition in full without government subsidies are free to go anytime.

The University of the Philippines' medical student body is composed mostly of children of the well-to-do and the well-connected. True, there are those who are really poor but they are not the norm. Also, most of the medical graduates of this school end up in the land of milk and honey...good old USA. Those who remain cluster themselves in Manila's medical centers enjoying fat professional fees. Graduates from this school should be mandated to get out of Manila and serve in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao or in the Cordilleras for five years. Otherwise they should pay equivalent to double the tuition paid in the most expensive private universities.—**Yinamiran**

* * *

Yinamiran, you spoke of an open secret that only few people in the Philippines dare to talk about. The UP-PGH College of Medicine is subsidized by the government, yet many of their graduates leave the Philippines soon after graduation. In some batches, it is easy to find more than 50 percent of their students serving the United States, not the Philippines.—**PT**

* * *

After more than 30 years of practicing their profession as physicians, professors, assistant medical directors, military or police doctors, some are enrolling for another two years' additional study toward a nursing degree just to land a job in the United States or Europe.

Can we blame them? Can we call it degrading? Can we call it a practical economic alternative? Or can we say simply that they no longer think or trust that this country will recover again?

For me it's a personal sacrifice, for the welfare of their families especially the children. Another two years of schooling with required duties in some hospitals is very traumatic. Imagine, you're a doctor (30 to 60 years old) and you have a duty in this hospital. You will go there not as a doctor but as a mere student earning credits for your subject units, and you will be supervised by a regular staff nurse of that hospital only a third of your age who will be asking you to clean the patient's body, replace the linen, remove human waste and record vital data.

Then a regular resident doctor of that hospital will make the rounds and check your work, and this doctor in his late 20s happens to be your student in a medical school some 20 or 30 years ago.

To regain your degraded pride you simply shut your mouth and just think of these magic words: for the love of dollars!—**ehallen**

* * *

Turning to jobs that are lower than what one had trained for is not really that bad. I'd rather have that than have no job at all. This is just being practical. I admire those who showed courage and shed false pride and pretensions to face the hard realities.

I do not think they did this for the love of dollars, as has been said. I would like to think that it was a matter of survival in this dog-eat-dog world. There is no easy road to prosperity without hard work, strong determination, faith in your God, and remaining true to yourself.—**cesdlrey**

* * *

It is unfortunate that doctors look at a noble profession like nursing with such condescension. Even sadder is that to this day, nurses in the Philippines are still considered maids and servants of the physicians. No wonder that nurses do not like working there. Developed countries do value nurses especially more so here in the United States where they have as many, if not more, specialties than medicine.

Perhaps if the Philippine medical community would look at the US model for health care, it might be able to alleviate the current plight of nurses. Nurses here complement physicians, they are not handmaidens or servants.—**jofis**

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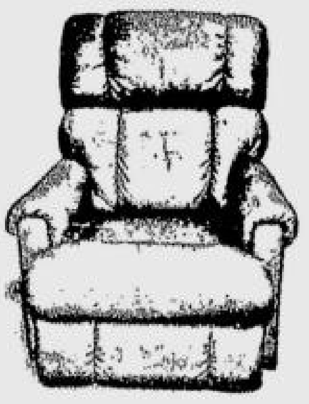

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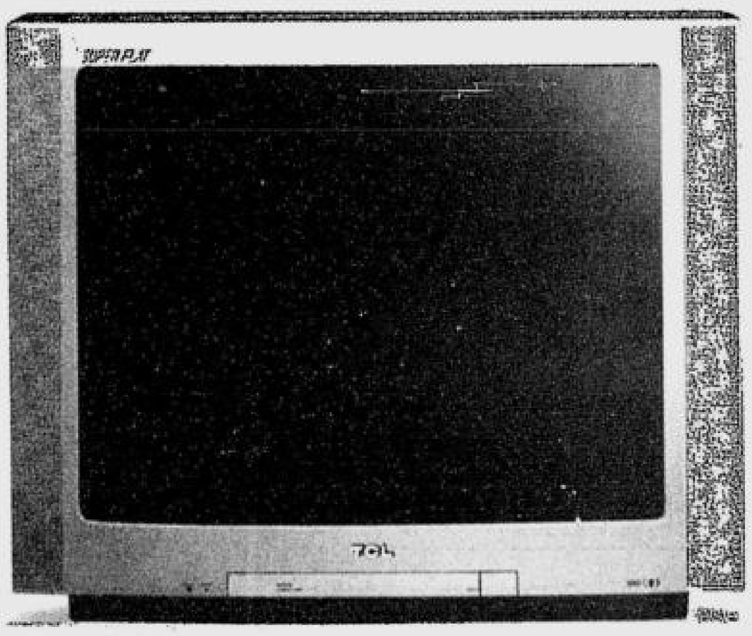

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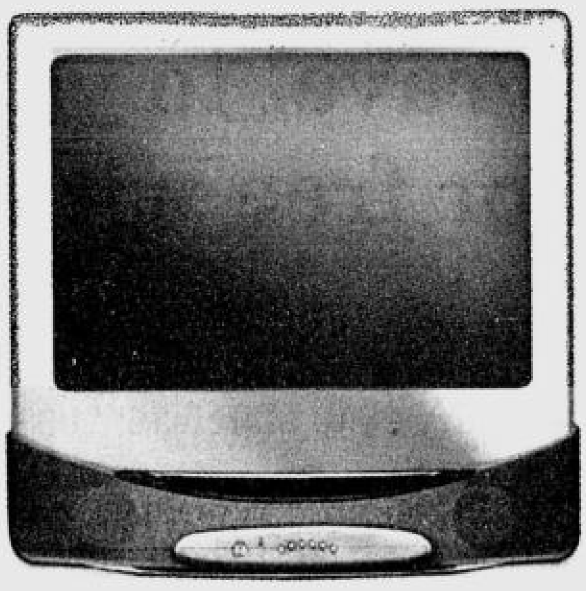

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

North Korea missile can hit US–CIA

WASHINGTON—North Korea already has the capacity to target the US west coast with a nuclear capable missile, CIA chief George Tenet said Wednesday.

But the White House quickly dismissed Tenet's remarks in a congressional hearing as "old news," apparently keen to head off critics of its approach to the nuclear crisis with the Stalinist state.

Officials meanwhile welcomed the decision by the International Atomic Energy Agency to refer the showdown over North Korea's nuclear programs to the UN Security Council.

But they stressed that did not yet envisage the imposition of sanctions—which Pyongyang has said it would regard as a declaration of war.

Tenet was asked at the hearing of the Senate Armed Services committee if he believed that Pyongyang had acquired nuclear weapons, and answered "they probably have one or two plutonium-based devices today," in line with previous CIA estimates.

But then, questioned on whether the Stalinist state could deliver such a weapon to the US West Coast, Tenet told the Senate Armed Services committee: "Yes they could do that." The White House, sensitive to claims by critics that its diplomatic approach to North Korea undermines its argument that war may be the only way to deal with Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, said Tenet's testimony was nothing new.

"This old news is why it's important to proceed with deployment of missile defense and also why the President is focused on multilateral diplomatic talks to deal with North Korea."

Administration officials argue that it is important to deal with the Iraq threat before it becomes as dangerous as that of North Korea.

The threat from the Taepodong-2 has been mentioned in various leaked intelligence assessments before.

But a congressional source said that Tenet's comments were based on new information declassified in the last couple of weeks.

"It was the first time that Tenet has acknowledged it publicly," the Capitol Hill staffer said on condition of anonymity.

Vice Admiral Lowell Jacoby, director of the Defense Intelligence Agency told the same hearing that the development of the missile showed that the Stalinist state was committed to posing a nuclear threat to the United States.

He said the Taepodong-2 missile could "target parts of the US with a nuclear weapon-sized payload in the two-stage configuration, and has the range to target all of North America if a third stage was used." *AFP*

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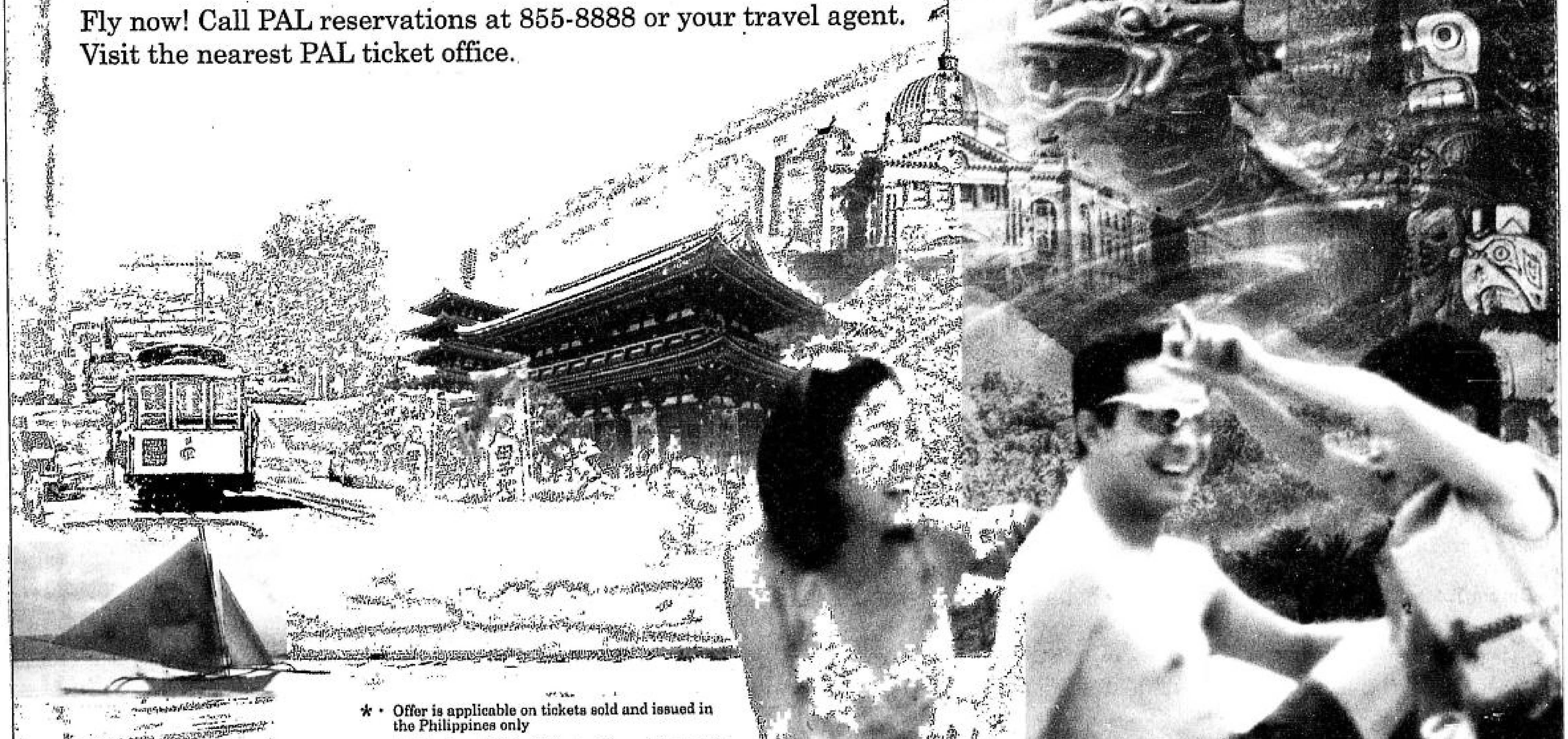

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Biggest ever anti-war protests on Saturday

PARIS—Demonstrations are to be held in scores of cities around the world on Saturday in what organizers are proclaiming will be the biggest ever day of anti-war protest.

With the US poised to launch military action against Iraq—and the UN Security Council due to hold a last-ditch meeting to decide whether to authorize it—millions of people are expected to take part in rallies and marches to condemn the slide to war.

In Europe—where the initiative for the protests originated—the movement will be led by the 500,000 demonstrators due at a rally in Hyde Park, London, in what the press has said could be the capital's biggest public throng since celebrations at the end of World War II.

Among the figures due to address the gathering are the African-American leader Jesse Jackson, the head of the Liberal Democrat party Charles Kennedy, veteran left-winger Glenda Jackson and playwright Harold Pinter.

"This is a tough political movement. It is not just an emotional spasm," said John Rees, who is on the steering committee of the Stop The War Coalition—one of the groups organizing the rally.

"People have not been fooled by the months of sophisticated propaganda. The more governments around the world have tried to coerce people intellectually into agreeing to the war, the stronger public opinion has moved against it," he said.

Opinion polls in European countries show clear majorities against war on Iraq. In Britain, 45 percent oppose war under any conditions and a further 40 percent oppose it without an authorizing UN resolution, according to a survey for the BBC released Wednesday.

Elsewhere in Europe major demonstrations are planned in Rome—where a million protesters are expected to answer the appeal of around 500 pacifist, Catholic, union and left-wing organizations—and in Spain, where nearly 60 marches are to take place across the country.

In Paris a march will be led off by French veterans of the Gulf War of 1991 carrying coffins, as well as a group of American opponents of the war, and there will be demonstrations in several provincial cities.

"Whether or not the war takes place under the aegis of the UN, it will be catastrophic for the Iraqi and Kurdish peoples, who already suffer from the (international) embargo and the bloody dictatorship of Saddam Hussein," said the coalition of groups organizing the French demonstrations in a statement.

There are also to be demonstrations in Athens, Dublin, Moscow, Prague, Brussels, Amsterdam, Vienna, Budapest, Sofia, Stockholm, Vilnius, Warsaw and numerous other towns and cities across the continent.

Elsewhere organizers are hoping for a crowd of hundreds of thousands in New York, with two other marches in Los Angeles and Chicago and a fourth in San Francisco on Sunday.

In Asia, Internet sites advertised marches planned for Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Dili, Lahore, Sydney, Hobart, Bangkok and Perth; and in Africa in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Kigali. Cities in the Middle East included Tel Aviv, Cairo and Istanbul. *AFP*

Osama says he'll die a martyr in new tape

LONDON—A British-based Islamic news agency said Thursday it has a new audio recording of Osama bin Laden in which he predicts he will die as "a martyr" this year in an attack against his enemies.

The Al-Ansaar news agency said that the 53-minute tape was allegedly recorded this month and acquired from a seller who advertised over the Internet.

Imran Khan, who runs the Birmingham-based agency Al-Ansaar, told The Associated Press that he translated the tape, describing it as poetic with several verses from the Quran.

"In this final year I hurl myself and my steed with my soul at the enemy. Indeed on my demise I will become a martyr," the al-Qaida leader purportedly says.

"I pray my demise isn't on a coffin bearing green mantles. I wish my demise to be in the eagle's belly," he continues.

Khan said experts contacted by Al-Ansaar believed the "eagle" referred to the United States and the quote revealed bin Laden's wish to end his life in a final act of terrorism.

In Washington, US counterterrorism officials were reviewing a transcript of the tape, but said they could not verify it was an authentic message from the terror chief.

While the speaker mentions an apparent intention to die in the coming year and uses some rhetoric similar to bin Laden's, officials said they could not be certain of the speaker's identity without reviewing the actual recording. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity.

Khan said the agency, which has released previous bin Laden tapes, had used the same sources to check the validity of the new tape. His claims could not be independently verified.

If authentic, the tape would be the latest in a series by bin Laden since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

On Tuesday, the Al-Jazeera satellite station aired the purported voice of bin Laden telling his followers to help Saddam Hussein fight Americans, and US officials claim the message backs Washington's charge that the Iraqi leader has ties to the al-Qaida terror network.

Khan said the new Ansaar tape claims a US-led war on Iraq is a precursor to an invasion of Saudi Arabia.

The speaker also calls for individual attacks against "Americans and Jews" around the world as well as larger acts of terrorism, Khan said.

Khan said the speaker also bragged about how the Sept. 11 attacks took just a few people to create such damage.

Khan said the seller of the tape spoke with a Saudi accent but he declined to say when it was acquired. Khan said Al-Ansaar had held talks with several news organizations about selling the tape and it expected it to be released publicly shortly.

In May 2002, Al-Ansaar released a video of bin Laden which it claimed showed he had survived the US war in Afghanistan. But Al-Jazeera said the tape was filmed before the war even began.

A spokesperson for Britain's Foreign Office said the department was unaware of the tape, saying it would need to hear the tape before considering a response. *AP*

Scientists uncover secret of long life

LOS ANGELES—Scientists for the first time have identified a common genetic mutation in people over 100 years old, a finding they say could be a key to discovering a way to avoid the ravages of aging.

In a study conducted at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California, researchers found that centenarians were five times more likely than others to have the same mutation in their mitochrondrial DNA.

Mitochondrial DNA, the portion of DNA located in the mitochondria or "powerhouses" of the cell, passes only from the mother to offspring. The mitochondria capture the energy released from the oxidation of metabolites and convert it into energy.

"It is possible that in the process of replication these molecules are less damaged by oxidation, but we don't know that yet," said Dr. Guiseppe Attardi, Caltech professor of molecular biology, and an author of the study.

The key mutation shifts the site at which mitochondrial DNA starts to replicate, and perhaps that may accelerate its replication, allowing the individual to replace damaged molecules faster, he said.

In the study of a group of 52 Italian centenarians, the researchers found a common mutation in the same main control region. Looking at mitochondrial DNA in white blood cells, they found that 17 percent of the 52 had a specific mutation called C150T transition, compared with only 3.4 percent of 117 people under the age of 99.

To see whether the mutation is inherited, the team studied skin cells collected from the same individuals between nine and 19 years apart.

In some, both samples showed that the mutation already existed, while in others, it either appeared or became more abundant during the intervening years. These results suggest that some people inherit the mutation from their mother, while others acquire it during their lifetime, Attardi said. *Reuters*

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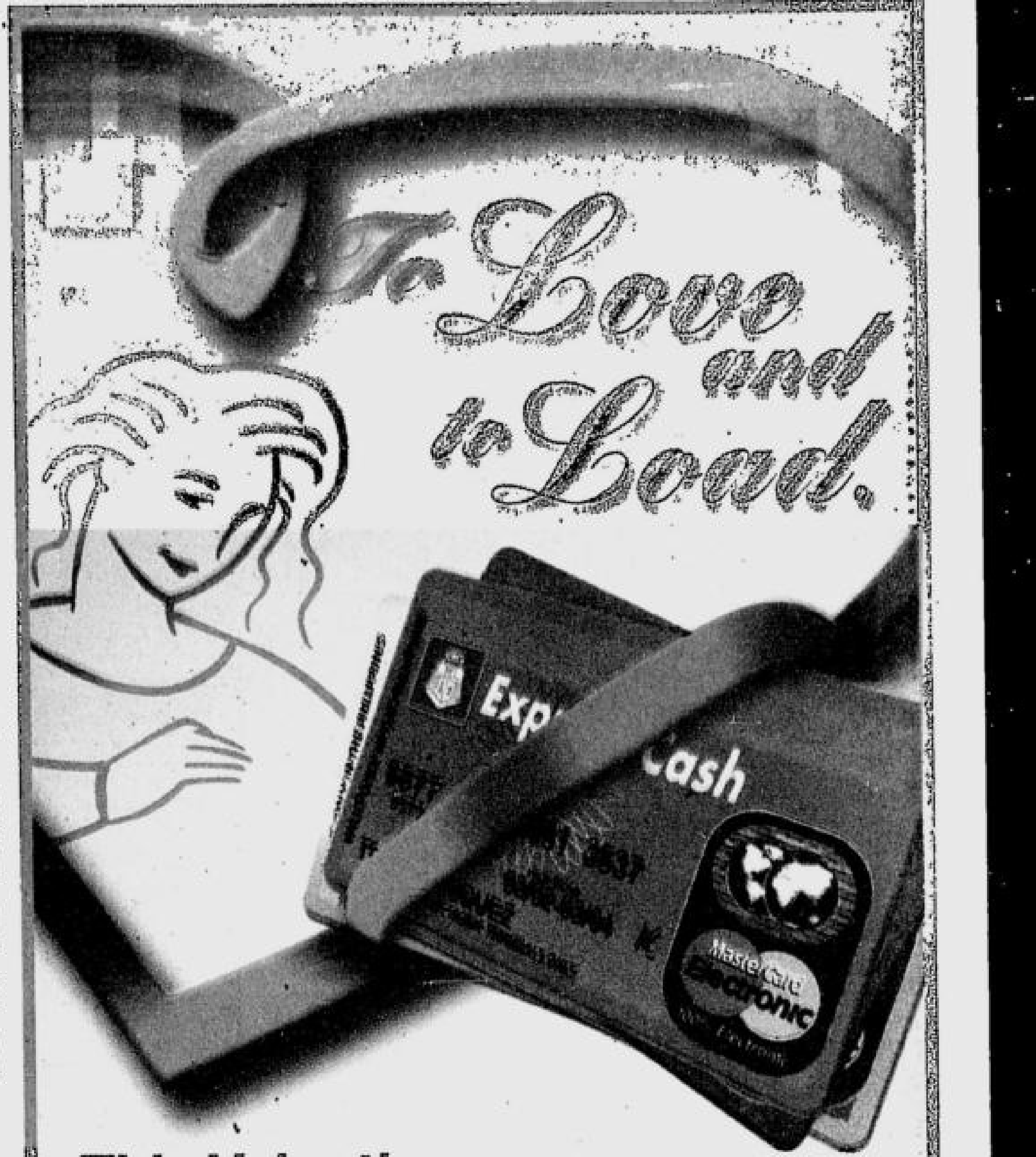

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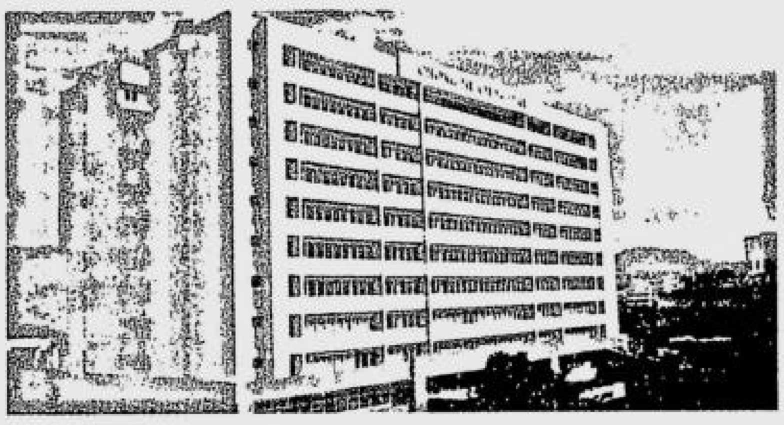

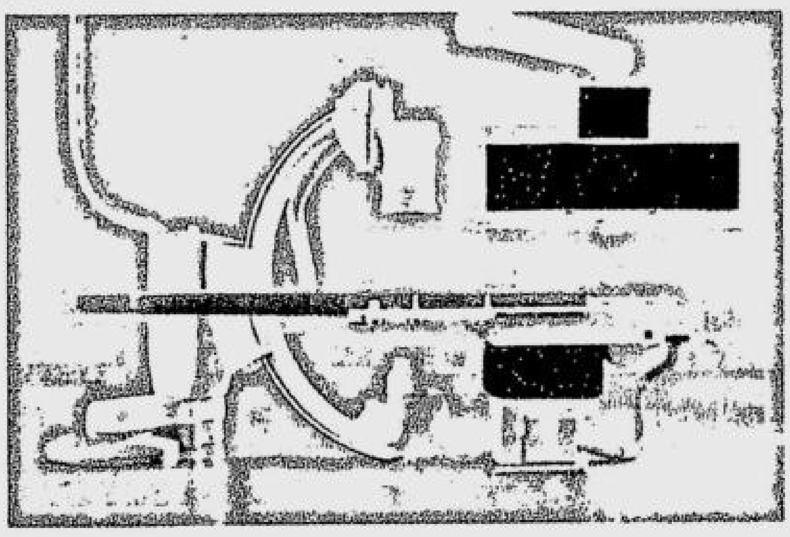

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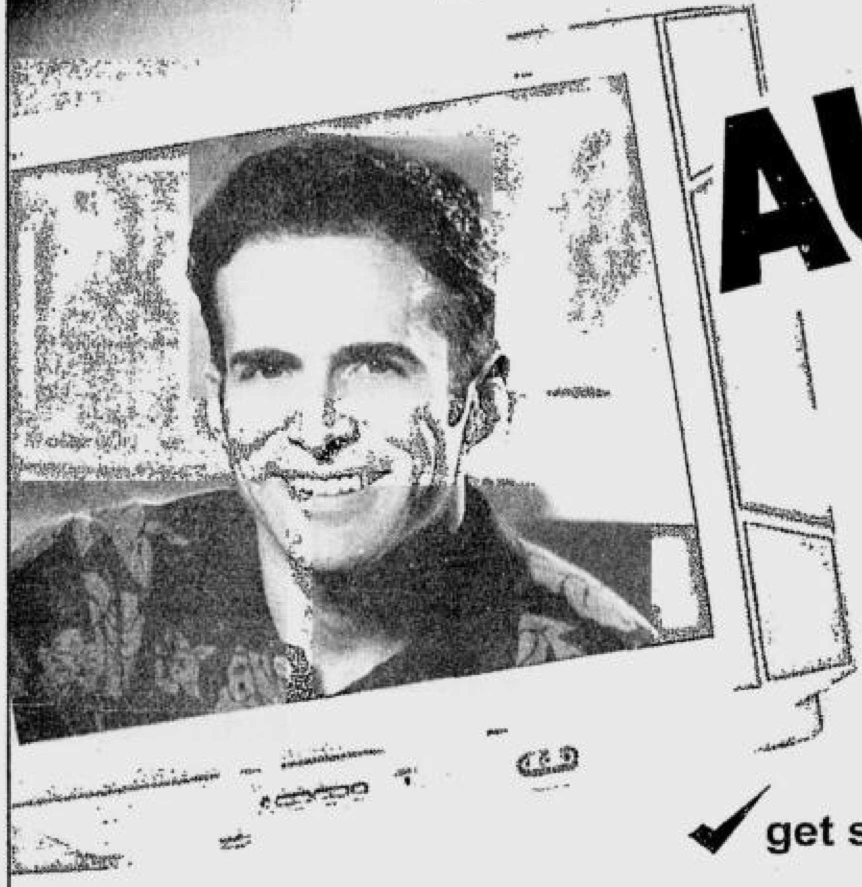

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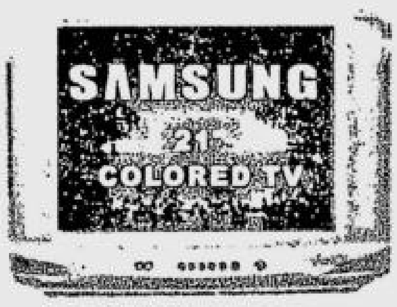

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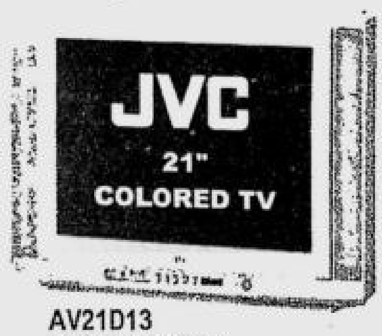

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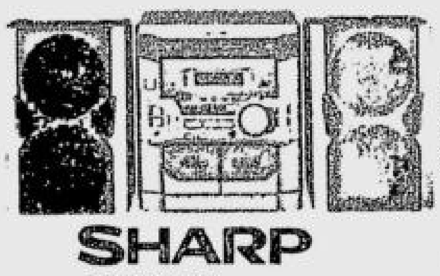

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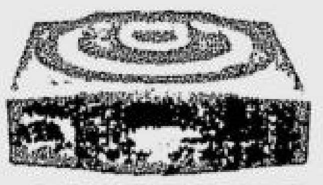

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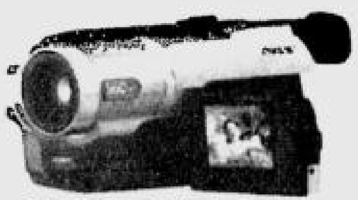

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5-yr counterinsurgency plan launched

NAGA CITY—The government has started to implement a five-year counterinsurgency program that involves both civilian and military agencies, military authorities have confirmed.

The source, which requested anonymity, said the counterinsurgency program was patterned from the previous counterinsurgency tactic that involved what had been popularly known as Special Operation Teams.

Army Col. Danny Servando, the Army officer tasked to promote the program, confirmed that the government has started to implement the counterinsurgency program with the formation of area coordinating centers in several parts of the country.

Servando said the area coordinating centers are open 24 hours a day and would be operated by a group of local civilian authorities from local government units and the executive branch.

But he failed to give further details of the counterinsurgency program.

The INQUIRER source said the counterinsurgency program was formulated from the National Internal Security Plan, which the Cabinet Oversight Committee on Internal Security implements.

He said the oversight committee stands as the implementing group that organizes area coordinating centers that will directly implement the components of the five-year counterinsurgency program in the rebels' strongholds.

On Tuesday, the first Regional Area Coordinating Center was inaugurated here with the aim of covering the six provinces of the Bicol Region.

The source said that in other parts of the country the area coordinating centers organized were on provincial levels.

Unlike the SOT, the reformulated counterinsurgency program is led not by the military but civilian authority that the organized area coordinating agencies would select.

While the SOT was military-initiated and covered only small areas like barangay or adjoining barangays, the reformulated counterinsurgency program takes direction from civilian authorities and implemented in wider scope.

The approach and strategies of the reformulated counterinsurgency program follow the SOT tactic where military operations are launched to clear areas of rebels.

Organizing of civilian militias is also undertaken to sustain the campaign against the rebels and safeguard the gains of the government.

When the areas are already cleared of rebels, government agencies come in to deliver basic social services, anti-poverty alleviation projects and other development projects.

"It has been proven that no development can happen for as long the influence of the rebels is present so that it is necessary to clear first the areas," the source said.

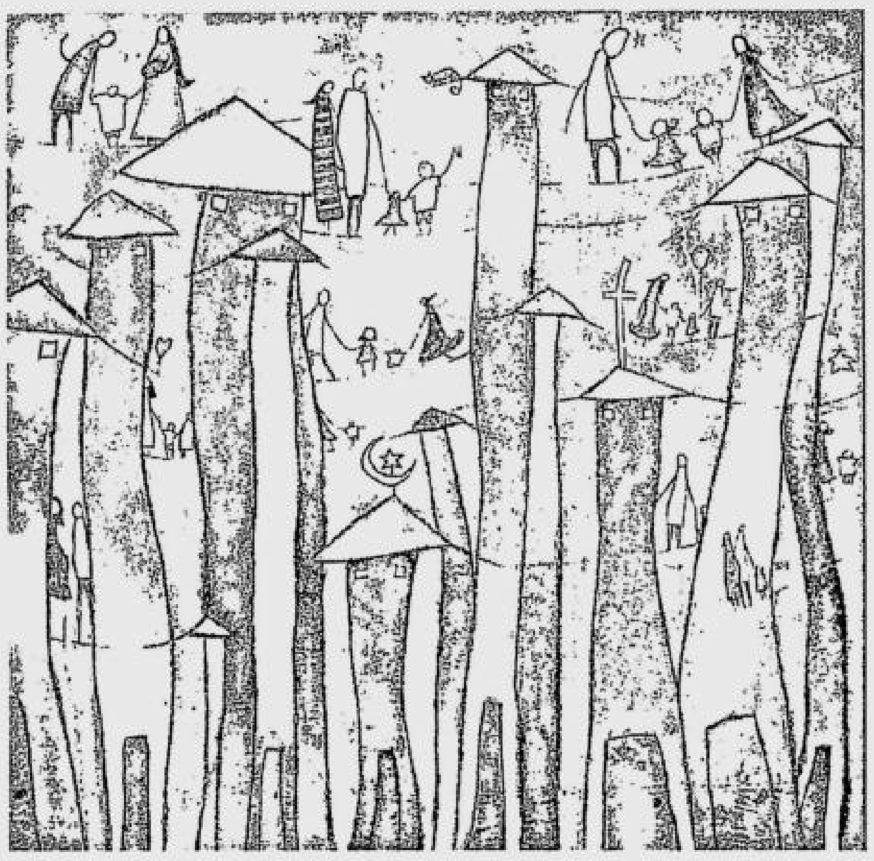
The source said the counterinsurgency program is composed of diplomatic and political initiatives, law enforcement and other programs.

He said the diplomatic and political initiatives involve government moves to expose and oppose rebel propaganda that tend to legitimize their causes.

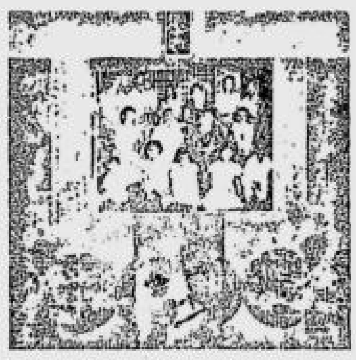
Law enforcement is basically maintaining peace and order and government's control over the areas from lawless elements. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Portraits of The Family as Winners

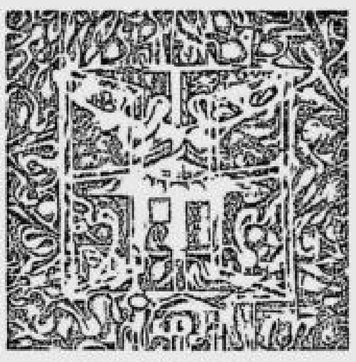
Congratulations to the winners of the 2003-2004 PLDT-DPC Telephone Directory Cover 17th Visual Art National Competition



Grand Prize
ALLAN JAY BALISI
Far Eastern University
"I Belong to One Big Happy Family"
29" x 29" Oil on Wood

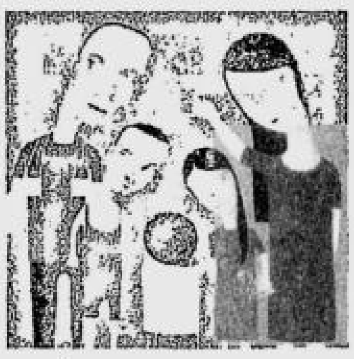


2nd ROBERT NELSON V. BESANA
Philippine Women's University
"The Solid Family: Fruition into a Solid Society"
29" x 29" Mixed Media



3rd ERIC B. VELASCO
Bulacan State University
"Isang Puso, Isang Isip, Isang Bansa, Buong Mundo...Iisang Pamilya"
29" x 29" Oil and Acrylic

4th JOVEN MANSIT
UP Diliman
"Family Tree"
29" x 29" Oil and Acrylic



5th LYNYRD ARWYN V. PARAS
TUP
"The Role of the Family, the Answer of the World"
29" x 29" Oil on Canvas

With The Family as this year's contest theme, 8 young aspirants emerged as winners. To have their art grace the covers of the 2003-2004 PLDT-DPC Telephone Directories. Come and admire the family in art form at the Ayala Museum, Makati Stock Exchange Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City, from February 6 to 28, 2003.

1st Honorable Mention
Edwin Ladrillo
FEATI University
"Hues and Values in Family Life"
29" x 29" Oil

2nd Honorable Mention
Serbrave Singh
University of Northern Philippines
"Sanctuaryo ng Pag-ibig"
27" x 27" Water Color

3nd Honorable Mention
Rexell Livelo
Philippines Women's University
"True Love Begins at Home"
29" x 29" Mixed Media

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Air Force park features old planes, choppers

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—A T-33, a T-28, an F-5, an F-8H and a UH-1H. The five aircraft—more known as the Thunderbird, Tora-Tora, Freedom Fighter, Crusader and Huey, respectively—are displayed together for the first time at the Air Force City here not for any conflict.

The rare assemblage of these flying machines at the 313-hectare Air Force City, which hosts seven units of the Philippine Air Force, is actually for a park never before built in the country.

"Do not mistake that we are preparing for anything. We are simply developing a park," said Col. Charles Hotchkiss, commander of the 600th Air Base Wing, the city's host unit.

Each aircraft, he said, has a story to tell as each one gives a piece of history of the PAF and of the country.

The Thunderbird, which the United States military gave in 1955, was the first jet in the air force's inventory. Flown in from Korea, it ushered in the "jet age" in the Philippine military, Hotchkiss said.

The Tora-Tora, called T-28 in the late 1960s, was named as such by the Muslims in Mindanao, he said.

The name was actually the title of a Hollywood movie on the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. Hotchkiss flew a Tora-Tora while he was a lieutenant in the PAF's 15th String Wing in the 1970s.

The Freedom Fighter and the Crusader, both fighter planes, were acquired under the Philippine-US military assistance program, a component of the 1947 military bases agreement between the two countries.

The Senate rejected the extension of the pact by 50 more years in 1991, resulting in the closure of some 30 American military facilities, including Clark and Subic, in the country.

Like the Freedom Fighter and the Crusader that saw action in the government's counterinsurgency campaign, the Huey was the "workhorse" of the military, Hotchkiss said. It transported troops to the mountain lairs of rebels.

The five aircraft, without their overused engines, are on display in a less than a hectare lot near the airmen's dormitories.

Hotchkiss said he preferred to call the place a park than a museum.

Arming of forest guards get backing

OROQUIETA CITY—A top environment official here has endorsed the stalled move by the provincial government to arm forest rangers designated to guard against illegal loggers in the communities surrounding the Malindang mountain range.

Edgardo Aguinaldo, community environment and natural resources officer here, said the move to arm forest guards continue to be a practical necessity in forest protection until today.

He said the firearms that would be issued to the forest rangers would allow them to face up to illegal logging operators who employ armed goons.

The move to provide firearms to forest rangers cropped up last year after local legislators of this city noted a resurgence of illegal logging operations that use as launching pad its hinterland barangays.

The measure gained the nod of provincial legislators who endorsed it to then Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez for an issuance of an order allowing the forest guards' arming. Until today, it has not been acted upon.

If the move would get Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun's approval, provincial officials would fund the acquisition of firearms. The provincial leaders even contemplated the acquisition of a helicopter for an effective aerial surveillance capability of timber poaching activities in the mountain range.

Aguinaldo, who oversees environmental law enforcement operations in nine towns and one city, said because of the measure's urgency, the proposed law enforcement scheme is worth the consideration of Gozun.

Rolando Dingal, Malindang's protected area superintendent, endorsed the move, saying the firearms would add to the effectiveness of the law enforcement teams who are "exposed to a higher risk in the dispatch of their forest protection duties." *Ryan Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Love in a time of guerrilla warfare

LUCENA CITY—Life inside the revolutionary movement is also replete with stories of heterosexual relationships, most of them with tragic endings as expected in the world of guerrilla warfare with its "chance encounters," "ambushes," "tactical offensives" and other games of death.

In Quezon province, the head of the Apolonio Mendoza NPA Command told the INQUIRER, in reply to questions coursed through a courier, that at least five pairs of communist cadres took their revolutionary marital vows last year.

Asked if the "husband and wife" relationship affects revolutionary zeal in the performance of assigned tasks, Ka Armine, chief of the NPA unit that operates in Quezon, said marriage has in no way hindered the couples' work in the revolution.

"On the contrary, it somehow adds inspiration and determination in the performance of any assigned revolutionary tasks," he said.

The NPA leader also clarified that the CPP does not prohibit comrades if they want their wedding to be solemnized by the Church.

"But they should first undergo the ritual of revolutionary wedding before doing so," Ka Armine said.

Policy

In 1999, the CPP issued a radical policy that allows "homosexual" relationships within the revolutionary movement subject to the same parameters and conditions set forth by the party on heterosexual partnerships.

Asked on their assessment of the policy that deals with "gays" and "lesbians" within the underground movement, Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, CPP spokesperson, begged not to give a categorical answer.

"I'm not in the best position to give a full disclosure on the subject. But I do have personal knowledge of some gays and lesbians that were allowed by the party to live as one," Rosal replied to the INQUIRER in an e-mailed interview.

Although he revealed that homosexual relationships within the movement is not yet a "general experience."

"There are still lots of efforts that need to be done so that the decision of the party allowing homosexual relationship will find general acceptance among party members and the masses," he said. He did not elaborate.

Biases

He said that the CPP's decision that allows such kind of relationship within the movement aims to erase the vestige of "macho and feudal" biases in the mind of the members and the masses.

"It also aims to encourage comrades with homosexual relationship to disclose it openly and submit it to the guidance of existing party policies on relationships," Rosal said.

"Hopefully, the homosexual partners will be imbued with much advanced political awareness and responsibility on how to carry on with the relationship," he added. *Delfin Mallari, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Vendors assail toilet demolition

BAGUIO CITY—Mayor Bernardo Vergara is facing contempt charges from local market vendors for ordering the demolition of six toilets in the city's public market.

The toilets were ordered built in 1997 by former Mayor Mauricio Domogan using P200,000 from then Sen. Raul Roco's pork barrel funds.

They were ordered destroyed on Feb. 7 for being in the "wrong place." Officials of the city engineer's office said the six toilets were situated near the vending site for meat and fish at the market's Block 3.

Leonora Guinid, a former city councilor who solicited the funds from Roco, said Vergara's decision violated an order that prevents the city government and the market vendors from introducing changes in the market compound.

Guinid said the vendors won the injunction when they sued the city government in the early 1990s for leasing the market site to retail giant Uniwide Sales and Realty Corp. using a lease formula that allegedly violated the build-operate-transfer (BOT) law.

Judge Antonio Reyes is still hearing the case, after Judge Ruben Ayson inhibited himself due to his close association with Vergara.

"I was surprised on my return here from Manila that the toilets were destroyed. This opened Vergara to charges of contempt. His Administrative Order 3 (which orders the city engineer's office to demolish all infrastructure found blocking market roads and alleys) appears to be his way of preparing the market for Uniwide," Guinid said.

Other vendors are contesting Vergara's directive to clear the market alleys. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Church robbed again

LOBOC TOWN, Bohol—Robbers struck anew on Tuesday, hauling off precious religious images from the 16th century Loboc Church.

The robbers escaped with the statues of the Sto. Kristo and the Virgen of Lourdes and the heads of the statues of San Francisco Javier and San Vicente Ferrer.

The Loboc Church, located about 24 kilometers from Tagbilaran City, became a parish in 1602. It is the second oldest church in Bohol behind Baclayon Church.

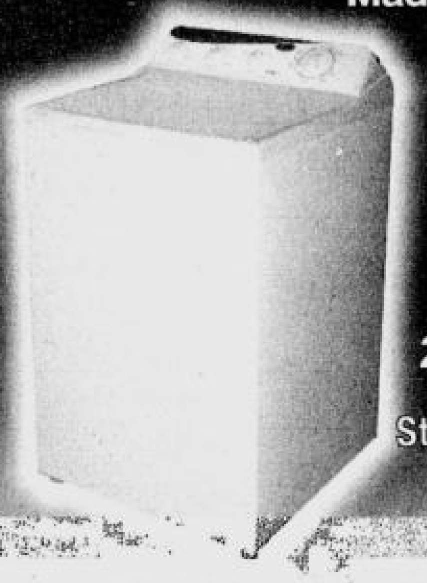
Initial police investigation showed that the robbers entered the church by bending the iron grills of the left door near the altar.

Police said they believed that the suspects used a mechanical hydraulic jack to forcibly open the grills.

Senior Insp. Uldarico Palgan, Loboc police chief, admitted that they had no leads yet as to the identity of the robbers.

Palgan said it was possible that some Loboc residents acted as guides because he did not believe that local boys pulled off the robbery.

The robbery was a cruel birthday gift for Fr. Desiderio Magdoza, Loboc parish priest, who celebrated his 39th birthday on the same day. *Chito Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau*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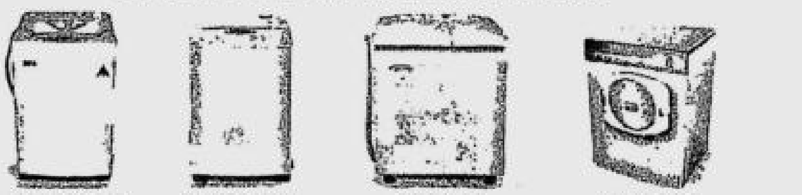
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"NATIONAL LEPROSY WEEK"
February 17-21, 2003

A message from the President of the Philippine Dermatological Society

Mabuhay!

The Philippine Dermatological Society (PDS) joins the nation as we celebrate "National Leprosy Week". The Society, together with the Department of Health National Leprosy Control Program and the Philippine Leprosy Mission, has various projects throughout the country, not only during the week-long celebration, but for the entire year.

To start with is the free skin evaluation in some barangays stretching across the entire archipelago. In Metro Manila, the PDS accredited institutions namely: the Philippine General Hospital, Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center, University of Santo Tomas, Makati Medical Center, University of the East-Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center, and Skin & Cancer Foundation will be actively participating in dermatologic services and information campaigns. Public school children will be screened for skin diseases in selected areas. Messages over television and radio, disease brochures and posters in the dialect are being disseminated to increase public awareness on leprosy and skin health. Lectures and seminars will be held for health providers. Rehabilitation and development programs of agencies such as the Phil. Leprosy Mission will continue to benefit persons with leprosy and their families.

Leprosy is being eliminated in our country through the continued efforts of key societies and agencies. Let us not forget, however, that the disease leaves behind physical and emotional disabilities that may last a lifetime. Medical cure is only one aspect of its care. Continued surveillance and treatment of this curable disease cannot be overemphasized. The theme "A World without Leprosy: Working towards elimination and rehabilitation" puts all efforts in a nutshell.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0289 Series of 2003

Maguindanao mayor seeks relocation of three oil depots

Per DTI-NCR Permit #0151 Series of 2003

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COTABATO CITY—A town mayor has moved for the relocation of three oil depots in Parang, Maguindanao after Caltex Philippines decided to temporarily shut down its operations there for more than a month now.

Parang Mayor Vivencio Bataga on Saturday said it would be good for his people, especially the fishermen, if the three oil depots of Caltex, Shell and Petron, which used to cause occasional oil spills, were relocated.

Caltex board Chair Timothy Leveille, in his letter to Bataga, said "the decision to mothball the depot was arrived at after thorough review of business economics and risk affecting our operation nationwide."

Marian Catedral, Caltex corporate affairs manager, said the depot's closure was just temporary, but "our Parang site will serve as a sales office. We continue to accept orders from customers."

But Bataga insisted that Caltex and other existing depots of oil firms should be relocated since these facilities no longer serve the needs of the people in Maguindanao and Central Mindanao.

He said he already asked members of the Sangguniang Bayan to draft a resolution and conduct committee hearings to know if majority of the residents are in favor of the relocation move.

Bataga lamented Caltex's decision to shut down despite pleas for reconsideration from the local government and the Office of the Presidential Assistant for Mindanao. *Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Gangsters terrorize villages

OZAMIZ CITY—An armed group continues to terrorize residents of remote villages here and in Tangub City.

Carlito Manos, a former New People's Army rebel, and Jerry Lagarit, a notorious underworld character here, reportedly led the group.

Police said the group killed at least four barangay watchmen since December.

Authorities said the group originally had only six members but had recruited more over the past few weeks.

Rolando Bondaco, chief of Labinay village, said residents in his village refused to stay in their homes during the night because of fear.

Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog Sr. warned the group against continuing their activities.

Parojinog said it would be better for Manos and his men to surrender "because if not, he might end up losing his life."

Parojinog also called on residents to share information that could lead to the arrest of the gangsters. *Ryan Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Congress approves new 'dirty money' law

From page A1

tations since last night by telephone, fax and e-mail," he said.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura, who chairs the country's Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC), said he hoped the FATF would accept the changes, but he warned that the possibility of sanctions remained.

"If the FATF rejects the amendments, I hope they will give us a grace period before imposing any sanctions so we could still have time to rectify our law," said Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

The sanctions may range from tighter monitoring that will delay the processing of transactions and make trade and remittances more expensive to more paralyzing ones like offshore banks refusing to do business with banks in the country.

Senate President Franklin Drilon himself doubted that the FATF would find acceptable the decision of Congress to retain in Amla the court order requirement in the opening of suspicious accounts.

"I voted that the court order be dispensed with in cases of 14 predicate crimes but I lost the vote. So I now have to accept that," he said.

Smugglers

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., chair of the Senate panel to the bicameral committee, said smugglers should have been included among the criminals whose bank accounts the AMLC may look into without requiring a court order. "We are very much affected by the illegal importation of rice, sugar, meat and vegetables," he said.

Magsaysay said it was he who proposed during the bicameral deliberations the lifting of court protection for bank accounts linked to smuggling, but he was outvoted.

The lifting of bank secrecy only in cases of suspected kidnapping, drug trafficking and hijacking was a compromise between the Senate and House panels. The Senate version retained the need for court orders, while the House version removed the requirement in compliance with the demand of the FATF.

Voting 15-5, the Senate ratified the conference committee report.

Sen. Joker Arroyo voted against the report for another reason. He said the Constitution provided that judicial powers be vested in the Supreme Court and in such lower courts as may be established by law.

He said the AMLC was not a court, yet under the approved version, it can exercise judicial power to determine whether probable cause exists that a particular deposit in certain categories is related to a money laundering offense, and therefore, can be opened by the AMLC.

"There can be no money laundering unless a bank, to begin with, accepts a tainted deposit from a depositor. The bank can easily detect a suspicious deposit," he said.

Consultations

Arroyo said it was "lamentable" that Philippine fiscal and monetary officials were in touch by telephone with US officials in the course of the bicameral conference.

Others who voted against the conference committee report were Minority Leader Vicente Sotto III and Senators John Osmeña, Panfilo Lacson and Manny Villar.

Lacson said the amendments spared corrupt public officials from the lifting of bank secrecy.

But Sen. Loren Legarda said the new version of Amla would satisfy the requirements of the FATF without compromising the country's sovereignty.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan said the final version was the best that Congress could come up with given the conflicting positions.

In the House of Representatives, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos said she was "almost certain that the new law would be struck down as inadequate" by the FATF.

Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico said there was a "great risk" the new law would be rejected by the FATF but blamed the "lack of credibility "of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas for the outcome.

"We were forced to enact this law and its amendments without even knowing who this FATF is ... we were made to believe by the BSP on what the FATF is," he said in a separate interview.

The FATF was put up 12 years ago by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which comprises the world's 30 richest countries, to track and prevent the flow of illegally acquired funds.

Suplico voted for the approval of the bicameral report but with reservations the other night.

He said he would have wanted the bicameral committee to put off the approval of the report and instead reconvene later just to see whether the FATF would impose the sanctions on the country.

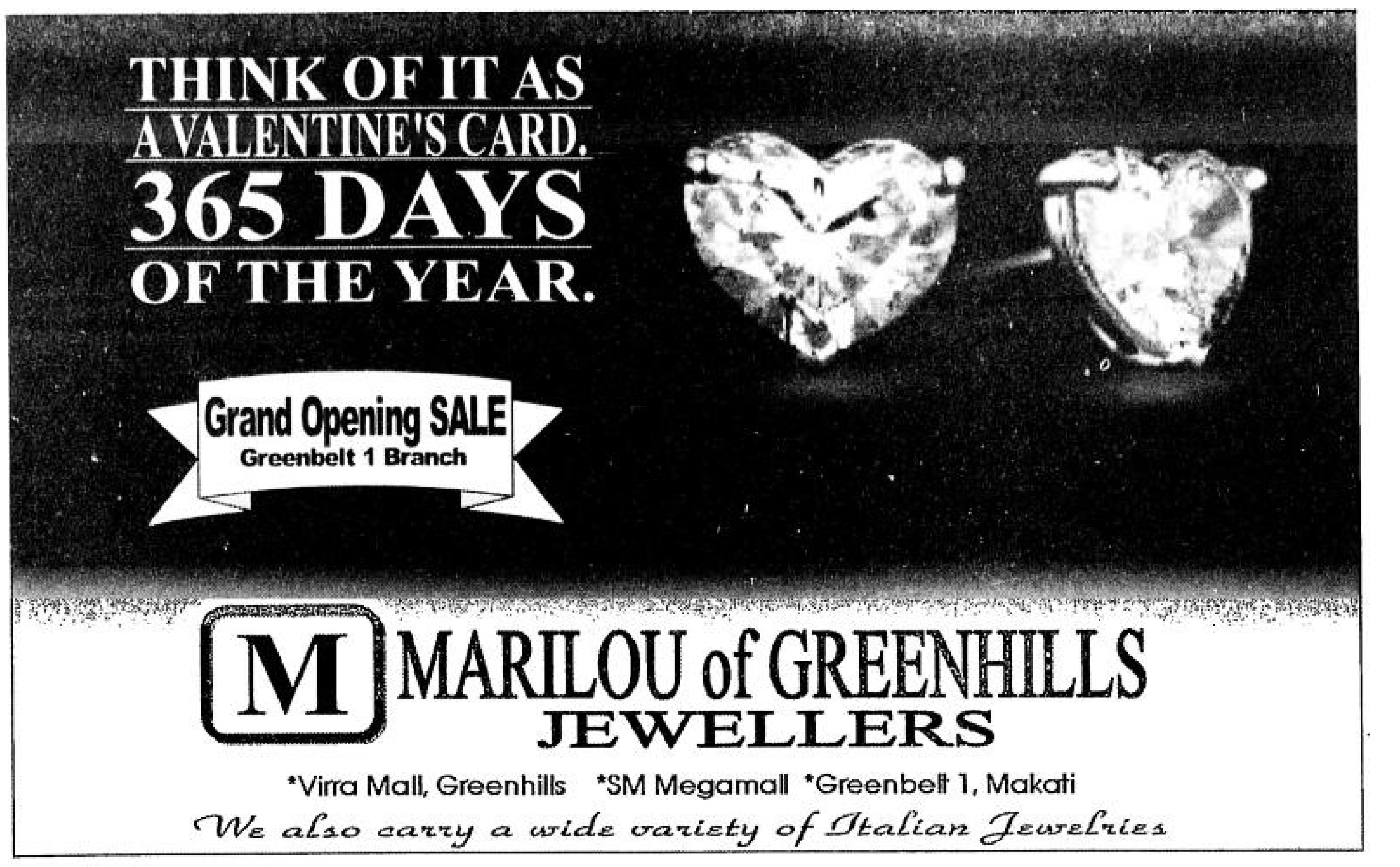
Three scenarios

Buenaventura said the FATF could do three things. The best scenario is for the watchdog to accept the amended Philippine law and take the country out of its watchlist.

The more realistic option for the task force is to keep the Philippines on the list and give it more time to refine the law and during this period it should not be penalized.

The worst-case is an outright rejection of the law that would consequently retain the country on the list and compel FATF to impose sanctions.

De Venecia said that a team of congressmen and senators was supposed to go yesterday to Paris to lobby for the acceptance of the amended Amla. The trip was cancelled because the team would not arrive in time for the FATF meeting. *With reports from Clarissa S. Batino and Juliet L. Javellana*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Love grows fonder . . .

From page A1

tervention, says Sherwin, now an entrepreneur.

This is their story.

Sherwin and Lorena met in September 1997 at the St. Joseph's Parish in Maypajo, Caloocan, where they were members of the church choir. He was swept off his feet by her charm and she by his boyish looks.

But only four months later, Sherwin was accepted for work as a McDonald's crew member in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Lorena was not really bothered. She knew the job was coming because Sherwin's family was made up of overseas workers and he himself had been longing to go abroad.

Besides, she told herself, the job would keep him away for only two years.

She would focus on her studies at the Fatima College in Valenzuela. What better way to welcome him home than to show him that she had become a respiratory therapist?

But deep inside she feared that the relationship might not endure. She thought four months of dating might not make up for two years of absence.

Before Sherwin flew off one January morning, he and Lorena swore to be true to each other. They promised daily phone calls, regular e-mails and occasional old-fashioned letters sealed with a kiss.

The first few days apart were gloomy for the lovers who sorely missed each other.

But the next few weeks were fine. They were now busy—he with his work and she with her studies.

The months passed.

And then Lorena received mail from Sherwin that hit her like a thunderbolt: "I think I'm beginning to fall in love with another woman," he wrote.

"That time I really didn't know what to do," Lorena says. "I was very far from him. The girl, whoever she was, had all the advantages. She was there with him."

Her only "advantage," Lorena thought, was the fact that Sherwin was honest enough to tell her about the woman, also a Filipino working in Riyadh.

She, too, decided to be honest. She told him what she felt—sad about the budding affair and happy that she at least knew of it—and told him how much she loved him.

In time Sherwin realized that it was still Lorena for him.

"Sometimes you really won't realize how much a person means to you until she's away from you," he says. "It's funny, but absence really made our hearts grow fonder."

Sherwin came home in 2000. Having saved enough to start a small business, he was eager to see Lorena, make up for lost time and probably settle down with her.

But within months Lorena was to be sent by a Manila-based Mitsubishi company to Nagoya in Japan, to work for an electronics firm there. The job was to take seven months.

"I was quite apprehensive for her because we all know how Filipinos at home view those working in Japan," Sherwin says. "Even if she'd go there not as an entertainer, we couldn't stop people from thinking that she'd be a 'japayuki.'"

Before Lorena left in May 2001, she and Sherwin made the same promises of fidelity and constant connection.

In Nagoya, Lorena made sure not to do anything that could disappoint or embarrass Sherwin. "But I must admit that the Filipinas there were very good to me, even the so-called 'japayukis,'" she says.

A nagging ripple in the long-distance relationship was Sherwin's fear that Lorena might find another man.

"He kept nagging me in letters and over the phone about something that never existed," she says jokingly. "He was paranoid because he fell in love with someone else when he was in Riyadh."

Despite Lorena's assurances, Sherwin would not be at peace until she returned in December 2001.

It was a month he would never forget.

When Elena Ocampo left for Bahrain in 1983, she had just separated from her husband. Thus, his aunts were the only family that her son knew.

At 9, Sherwin got an unexpected visit.

"I didn't recognize her," he recalls. "My aunts told me that she was my mother, and I was very, very happy. But my world practically crumbled when she left after three months. I cried for weeks."

It was 15 years later, in December 2001, that mother and son saw each other again.

Again Elena would not stay long, but she brought him the perfect Christmas surprise: Lorena's homecoming and consent to marry Sherwin.

On the appointed day Elena took Sherwin to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. She said they were to pick up a longtime friend, who turned out to be Lorena.

Elena returned to Bahrain a few days after Sherwin and Lorena were married in civil rites at the Manila City Hall.

Now she can't wait to be reunited with the couple, and has even made arrangements for a job for Sherwin at the Jordanian Embassy.

In between their preparations Sherwin and Lorena help out at former Ambassador Roy Señeres' OFW Family Club.

They plan to return to the Philippines after five years and to settle down here with their kids.

Germany, France continue to defy US

From page A1

"For us, solidarity with Turkey and solidarity in the alliance is not in question," Schroeder said.

France, Germany and Belgium have blocked Nato action for the past month, asserting that military planning could undercut UN efforts to resolve the Iraq crisis peacefully.

The Nato crisis began Monday after Turkey invoked the alliance's mutual defense treaty, but the three countries refused to budge despite charges from the United States and the 15 other allies that continued division was sending a dangerous message of disunity to Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Continued rebuffs brought an irate response from the United States. "It would be much better if Nato would act as an alliance . . . and not allow itself to be tied up in knots by three of the 19 nations," US Secretary of State Colin Powell said in Washington.

Nato spokesperson Yves Brodeur said consultations would continue Thursday to find a way to start the alliance planning to send Awacs surveillance planes, Patriot missile defense batteries and detection units for biological and chemical weapons to Turkey.

Another formal session of the policy setting North Atlantic Council was expected on Thursday afternoon.

US chances diminished

The continued standoff at Nato headquarters cast doubt on US chances of gaining support from the world body for war against Iraq for Baghdad's alleged failure to disarm.

In Washington, Powell told Congress that he would press the French and German foreign ministers to say how much more time they would give the inspectors or whether they were only trying to get Iraq "off the hook."

"That is the question I will put to them Friday," Powell said.

A decision by the Security Council to block military action could produce a major break between Washington and most of the world's other big powers.

France, Germany and Russia say they see no reason for launching an attack on Iraq, insisting that weapons inspectors be given more time, manpower and equipment to peacefully disarm Iraq of weapons of mass destruction.

US and British diplomats struggled Thursday to assemble votes for a possible Security Council resolution authorizing military action against Iraq. Britain may present a draft resolution, possibly as early as Friday after top UN inspectors Hans Blix and Mohamed ElBaradei present their latest assessment of Iraq's cooperation.

The support for Turkey's defense can also be handled by the United States and other allies individually.

The Netherlands is already sending Patriot anti-missile batteries to Turkey, the only Nato member bordering Iraq. Britain or the United States could also supply Awacs planes and several allies could send anti-toxic warfare units.

By leaving Nato out of Turkey's defense, those moves would marginalize the alliance and cast doubt on its credibility.

With the dispute over Iraq already tearing apart Nato, Greece warned Wednesday of "a deep crisis" within the European Union also if European nations could not agree on a common front.

Greece, current president of the 15-nation European Union, said it would push at an EU summit next week for a common approach on iraq. But the European Union itself is divided, with Britain, Spain, Italy, Denmark and Portugal broadly backing Washington.

Under heavy guard

With the Bush administration denouncing an "unholy partnership" between Osama bin Laden's shadowy network and Saddam Hussein's regime, the United States and Britain braced themselves for possible terrorist attacks.

US federal, state and local governments on Wednesday tightened security; anxious Americans stockpiled food and water; and police responded to scores of false alarms, including reports of suspicious vehicles that shut down commuter bridges in Washington and New York.

The terror alert had some Americans buying wood stoves, drums to collect rainwater, duct tape and plastic sheeting—just in case.

The United States remained under a Code Orange "high risk" of attack status—the second highest alert level—for a sixth day, and no change was in sight.

"If given the choice, al-Qaida terrorists will choose attacks that achieve multiple objectives, striking prominent landmarks, inflicting mass casualties, causing economic disruption and rallying support through shows of strength," CIA Director George Tenet told the Senate armed services committee.

Tenet said he was worried that a new audio message attributed to Bin Laden was a prelude to a strike.

"He (Bin Laden) is obviously raising the confidence of his people. He's obviously exhorting them to do more," Tenet said. "What he's said is often followed by an attack."

A report surfaced Wednesday of a new audio recording by Bin Laden in which the al-Qaida leader purportedly predicted his own death in an unspecified act of "martyrdom" against the United States. *(See story in The World.)*

Fearing the worst, US officials deployed Avenger anti-aircraft missiles and extra radar around Washington. The Air Force stepped up its combat air patrols over the capital. US Capitol police were told to carry gas masks at all times.

London scene

In London, British Prime Minister Tony Blair told parliament the security measures were "necessary in order to give people the protection and security they need."

Home Secretary David Blunkett said the government had even considered closing Heathrow airport, among the world's busiest.

"This is not a game. This is about a threat of the nature that massacred thousands of people in New York," said John Reid, chair of the ruling Labor Party.

With 17,000 police conducting counterterrorist operations across London, police evacuated King's Cross, one of Britain's busiest train stations, on Wednesday.

"We are on an extremely high level of alert," a police source said. King's Cross reopened after a suspicious vehicle was checked.

Across the Atlantic, anxiety levels have risen in major US cities. In New York, swarms of police circled Grand Central Station, stopping and searching vans. Extra police patrolled streets and bridges, in subways and near power stations.

Tenet said intelligence reports indicated that the attacks could occur late this week and that the terrorist plots "could include the use of radiological dispersion devices as well as poisons and chemicals."

Some jittery New Yorkers were taking extreme measures. Proprietors at two Manhattan shops said they had sold several hundred $300 chemical protection suits this week. *Reports by AP, AFP and Reuters*

Lessons on amour from a skunk

From page A1

home from kindergarten class and raptly watching him making his moves and, with that debonair accent, dropping such lines as: "It eez love, my dear."

As in any other affair, I got jealous every time Pepe pursued that other skunk, the *femme fatale* Penelope.

I laughed till I cried whenever he was attracted to cats that he mistook for skunks because by accident the felines somehow had paint dripped on their tails or were drenched by odors that macho skunks found tantalizing.

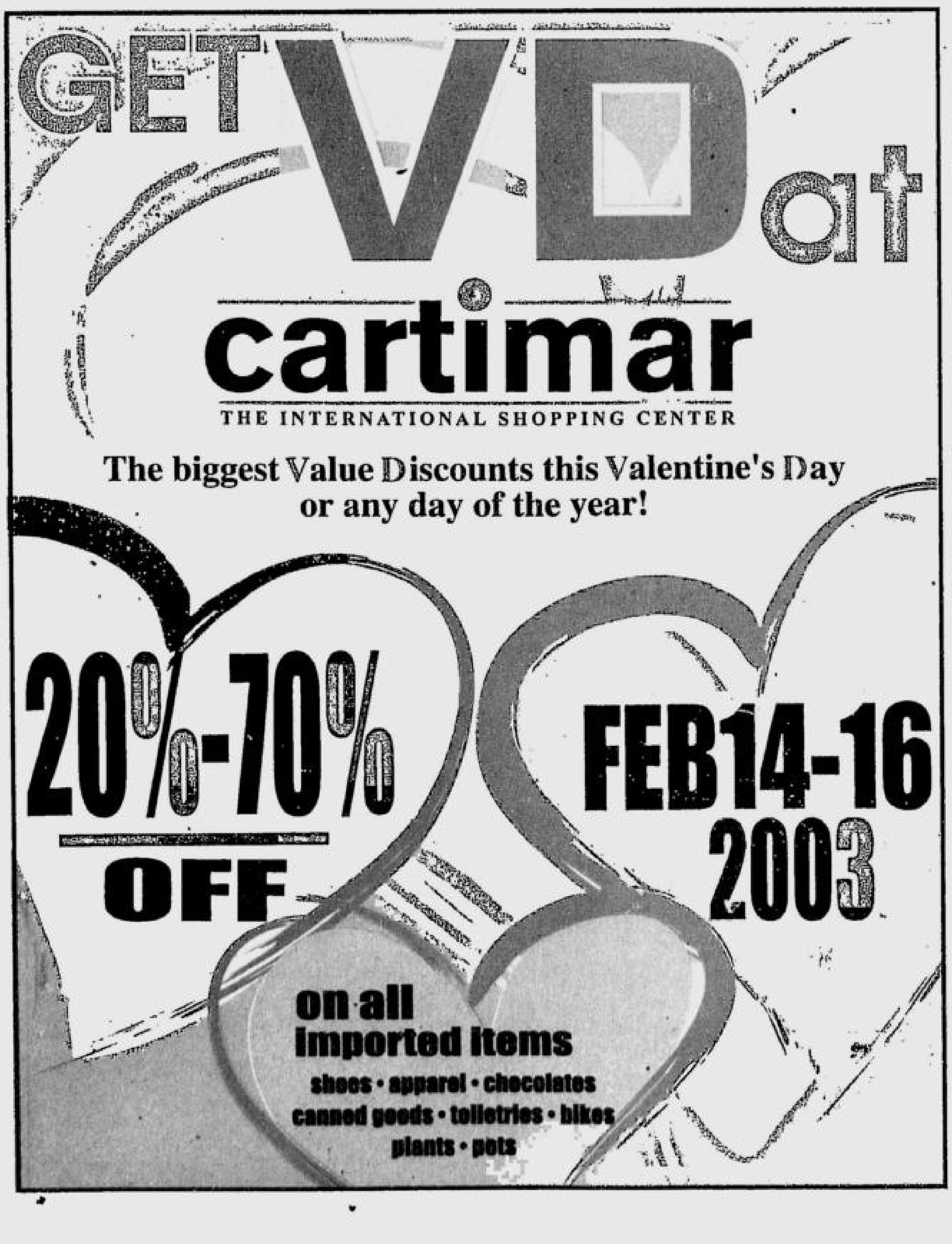
I watched Pepe on a black-and-white TV set in my childhood. Now, in the age of Fox News and CNN in full color, his appeal remains irresistible.

And men can probably get some pointers from him, starting with his determination to never say dye—I mean die—when the female he desires is not paying attention.

Romantic Pepe understands the power of well-chosen words and wields it well.

Aspiring but tongue-tied Romeos can check out these lines from Pepe—and learn:

- Sweetheart, if I follow you home, will you keep me?
- Not only am I good-looking, baby doll, I'm rich. Interested?
- You have a map, yes? I would like to use it since I keep getting lost in your eyes.
- I hope you know CPR, my darling, because you take my breath away.
- If I could arrange the alphabet I would put U and I together.
- Pardon me, *ma cheri*, I seem to have lost my phone number, May I borrow yours?
- There must be something wrong with my eyes, no? I cannot seem to take them off you.
- Coffee? Tea? Me?!
- Your legs must be tired because you've been running through my mind all day.
- Do you believe in love at first site, or should I walk by again?



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50 Lakas solons want . . .

From page A1

sented to him, INQUIRER sources said.

A group of 30 Lakas congressmen earlier met for lunch hosted by Negros Oriental Rep. Jacinto Paras, who later said the group unanimously endorsed the candidacy of Cojuangco.

Edging out Roco

The Cojuangco-for-President campaign in the House has been edging out that for ex-Sen. Raul Roco. One congressman said as many as 80 congressmen were for Roco but unlike the Cojuangco supporters, they had not manifested their support in writing.

NPC congressmen downplayed the Monday meeting with Cojuangco.

"It's a regular meeting (being held) once a month. But no one will be proclaimed there," said Senior Deputy Majority Leader and Sorsogon Rep. Francis Joseph Escudero, one of the senior NPC leaders in the House.

He added that the NPC was still complies with President Macapagal-Arroyo's appeal for all politicians to refrain at this time from talking about 2004 while helping to focus on economic recovery.

But he admitted that the NPC had been receiving a lot of endorsements from other parties "and we are flattered that they want our party chair to be their candidate."

"It might just open the door," he chuckled, but added that "right now it's closed," he said when asked Cojuangco's response to the signature campaign in the House.

Leyte Rep. Ed Veloso, another NPC member, said as much.

"The truth is he (Cojuangco) does not want to go to politics anymore; unfortunately there are a lot of people who are asking him to run and the signature campaign might just change his mind," Veloso said.

He said the NPC in the House would "definitely" be solid behind Cojuangco.

"And I think even the majority of Lakas will shift to him," he added.

The letter from the Lakas congressmen was emotional.

"Many said that becoming a president of the country is destiny, and we believe that you are destined to become one because of your strong leadership qualities and impressive track record in business and economics. The time is now and the right opportunity for you to serve your beloved people," they said.

"A lot of us who are signatories here may not have supported you before or may have even opposed you in the past, but today, we are one in letting you know that based on our common sentiments, you alone can turn the country around and stop the country from eventual perdition," they added.

To rescue of SMC

They said that San Miguel Corp. suffered from huge losses before he took over as chair and chief executive officer "in the same manner that our country is suffering from economic turmoil."

"Yet, you rescued San Miguel and raised it into a profitable company, getting more investors and eventually expanding its operations and businesses," they said. "There is no reason why you cannot, likewise, bring back our country into a most attractive area for investment."

They said Cojuangco could also solve the peace and order problem "because you were partly responsible for convincing the RPA-ABB to have peace talks with the government."

They said he could convince other rebel groups to exnter into peace talks with the government.

They said that with his "outstanding abilities in agribusiness" and his "track record in agriculture" he can fast-track the country's agricultural development.

They noted that Cojuangco admired President Macapagal-Arroyo for forsaking her presidential ambition in order not to derail her governance and economic efforts.

'People's call'

"For us, Mr. Ambassador, the ultimate sacrifice at this point in our history is accepting the people's call for you to run for President to save this country from its present state of chaos and political instability and to provide a secure future for all Filipino generations to come," they said.

"Lastly, we believe in your 'winnability' in the 2004 elections. With us Lakas signatories plus many more who will join and the 63 NPC congressmen, many governors and mayors, your presidency is attainable and our people's lives will be secured," they said.

A congressman who asked not to be named said his colleagues were drafting Cojuangco "because of his money."

Fighting escalates . . .

From page A1

fensive to capture the Buliok complex, one of the largest rebel strongholds.

The campaign to overrun the complex, an MILF village near Pikit town in North Cotabato that the military alleged is a Pentagon sanctuary, resumed at 6 p.m. Wednesday when Army artillery and Air Force planes started pounding known rebel locations inside the 200-hectare complex.

"The majority of the five battalions are already inside (the complex)," Col. Essel Soriano, Armed Forces spokesperson, said in Camp Aguinaldo.

Smaller groups

The attack, Soriano said, forced the MILF and kidnap gang members to abandon their bunkers and split up into smaller groups.

"It's hard to say when we are going to overrun the complex. We're trying to do this as soon as possible," 6th Infantry Division chief Maj. Gen. Generoso Senga told reporters.

Eid Kabalu, rebel spokesperson, said the MILF hierarchy had already given local commanders a free hand in determining what military action to take. Kabalu said this explained the spread of the clashes to other parts of Maguindanao, North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat provinces.

He said the decision was reached after the military continued to assault rebel positions despite a return to barracks order issued by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"This is only to reciprocate the attacks launched by the military against our forces," he said.

Despite the order, Kabalu said the MILF would avoid harming unarmed civilians.

Mounting casualties

Soriano said the casualty toll included 137 rebels and four soldiers dead, with 22 soldiers wounded.

But Senga told reporters the MILF death toll could be higher. Earlier, his division spokesperson, Maj. Julieto Ando, said the toll was much higher, with 157 rebels and four soldiers dead, with 24 troopers wounded.

Kabalu confirmed the death of many rebel fighters in the Lambayong action.

"Twenty-eight of our men died when the military caught them by surprise. This is a sad day for us but to die in the pursuance of Islam is great," Kabalu said.

All told, he said, the MILF suffered 33 fatalities and six injured since fighting erupted on Tuesday.

He also said the MILF killed 56 soldiers, including an Army captain, as of noon yesterday.

"Tens of them have also been wounded based on radio communications we are intercepting," he said.

Aside from an actual body count, an Army spokesperson said, tallies of rebel casualties were based on reports from villagers and intercepted radio messages.

"We're being hit and we're hitting back," Ando said. "We are battling these Pentagon criminals, lawless elements, and if these other groups get in the way, we have to take countermeasures against them."

Highway battle

Another major encounter was a major skirmish to control the North Cotabato highway, fought near Barangay Takepan in Aleosan town.

Col. Carduzo Luna, commander of the Army's 602nd Infantry Brigade, said about 100 MILF fighters tried to cross the highway in Aleosan around 5:30 a.m. yesterday.

Luna added that, since Wednesday night, rebels had been also monitored inching toward a portion of the highway in Barangay Dalingaoen in Pikit, North Cotabato and in Barangay Layog in Pagalungan, Maguindanao.

"There are soldiers in the area, so when they were spotted, it triggered a firefight which lasted until 7:30 a.m.," he said.

The MILF withdrew toward the Liguasan Marsh area. "There was no casualty on either side," Luna said.

Fearing an escalation in the fighting, the military briefly closed the major road linking Pikit in North Cotabato with other provinces on the island. Traffic was snarled for up to 2 kilometers as residents waited with their belongings to be evacuated to safer places.

The military said it would close the road again to prevent rebel hostage-taking.

Other encounters included:

- An MILF ambush of a Marine contingent in Barangay Timbangan in Parang town, Maguindanao at about 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, which left four soldiers wounded.
- A skirmish with the 40th Infantry Battalion's detachment in Layug, Pagalungan, Maguindanao, at around 12:20 a.m., which left one soldier injured.
- An MILF raid on a detachment in Barangay Bual, Tulunan town, North Cotabato, which killed four rebels and a Cafgu regular identified as Perfecto Arango. Lt. Gerard Monfort said the rebels, who attacked around 5:30 a.m., also took several civilians as hostages.

A Cafgu regular in Tulunan told the INQUIRER his fellow militiamen initially mistook the rebels for soldiers.

"They were waving their hands to us. We later realized that they were rebels when they started firing," the militiaman, who sustained minor wounds, said. *Jeffrey Tupas, Edwin Fernandez and Allan Nawal, with reports from Ayan Mellejor, Charlie Senase, PDI Mindanao Bureau; AP, Reuters, AFP*

HORRORS of war are etched on the the faces of the evacuees' children after MILF rebels attacked an Army camp on Thursday in Krosing Muslim, Tulunan, North Cotabato. VAL HANDUMON

Truce broken with 'abandon'

By Donna Cueto

BOTH the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front committed violations "with disquieting abandon" of the ceasefire agreement they forged in August 2001, a study has concluded.

"Fault cannot be laid categorically against either side, but both parties have done less than they could have, or probably should have, to ensure the success of the agreement," read the Bantay Ceasefire report of the Mindanao People's Caucus.

"While both parties insist that they have adhered unwaveringly to the ceasefire agreement, in reality each side has interpreted the ambiguous areas of the ceasefire agreement to their advantage," the report, which assessed the implementation of the ceasefire agreement, added.

The study, which was conducted last month, covered North Cotabato, Maguindanao, Lanao and Sultan Kudarat provinces. Some 60 delegates composed of lumads, settlers and Bangsamoro grassroots leaders in Mindanao conducted the investigation. Ten observers from Australia, Germany, Indonesia, East Timor, the United States and Malaysia also participated.

The group found out that the AFP would pursue and engage in battle with known MILF rebels, while claiming that their operations were only against criminals such as kidnappers, and terrorists such as members of the Abu Sayyaf or the Pentagon gang.

But the MILF had been also remiss in reporting their troop movements to the joint coordinating committee on the cessation of hostilities (CCCH), that could have prevented the encounter in October 2002 in Lanao, and the encounter last month in Sultan Kudarat.

Children of war need toys . . .

From page A1

late their trauma," said Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman of the Department of Social Welfare and Development yesterday.

The latest report from the National Disaster Coordinating Council only added to the urgency of Soliman's appeal.

The NDCC yesterday estimated the number of evacuees to have risen to 58,236—almost 20,000 of whom come from Pagalungan town, Maguindanao.

It is the first time that the DSWD is asking for such donations for the benefit of children caught in armed conflict. Usually, Soliman said, the DSWD asks for toy donations only during the Christmas season and mainly for the benefit of streetchildren.

She said giving children in the evacuation centers the chance to still "express themselves through art and play" was part of the department's stress debriefing program for victims of disasters, large-scale violence, and other traumatic events.

As of Wednesday, as much as 20 percent of the Pikit evacuees were children in the formative years, ranging from newly born infants to 6-year-olds, she said.

"It's traumatic for children of this age to be removed from familiar grounds. This is something that might stay in his mind which, if not ventilated, he (or she) will carry for the rest of his life," Soliman told the INQUIRER.

Unless the children are given a "forum to express themselves," she said, "they might grow up thinking (of) bombs and running away as a natural course of events in their lives."

The DSWD chief said the more appropriate toys for such children were the types they could "manipulate" such as modelling clay or soft balls. Toy vehicles and dolls, as well as crayons and children's books, are also welcome.

For obvious reasons, she added, toy guns or tanks or the like are a no-no.

Worst offensive

The military offensive in the Liguasan Marsh area, which started in Pikit, was the worst in terms of the number of evacuees, North Cotabato Rep. Emmylou Talino-Santos said.

Santos reported that for the first time, the evacuees included a "visible" number of able-bodied men—indicating, she said, that the Pentagon kidnap gang, which is the target of the offensive, has lost the support of local residents. In the past, she said, the evacuees usually consisted of children, women and elders.

"(But now) the men were quite visible," she said in a press briefing in Congress.

Santos said she supported the decision of the President to resume the offensive.

"If you live in the area you would support the President's decision (too) because the Pentagon gang is the most notorious in our area and every time there is a kidnapping and bombing, we are the ones affected," she said.

"The target of the military is the Pentagon gang. It just happened that they were in the MILF camp," she added.

Affected towns

The evacuees came from seven towns in North Cotabato, one in South Cotabato and two towns in Maguindanao.

The affected North Cotabato towns were Tulunan, Pres. Roxas, Carmen, Kabacan, Pikit, Pigkawayan and Midsayap.

In South Cotabato, the NDCC counted 103 evacuees from Banga.

In Maguindanao, 19,702 persons fled their homes in Pagalungan while another batch of 1,640 came from SK Pendatun.

The NDCC said that the evacuation was "complex emergencies in Mindanao."

COMRADE in arms to the end, a militaman shields his dead buddy from another round of deadly fire from MILF rebels in Tuluyan, North Cotabato. VAL HANDUMON

Soliman said that three children had already died of illnesses in evacuation centers. But these three were ill even before they arrived, she explained.

She said she ordered measles vaccinations for all children in the evacuation centers and the setting up of a "tent city" with portable toilets, to decongest the evacuation centers. *With a report from Juliet Javellana*

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SPORTS

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Canlubang hosts Tourism Cup

THE PHILIPPINE Tourism Cup Southern Tagalog region qualifying round will be held today and tomorrow at the Canlubang Golf and Country Club. Today's round is for non-club members while tomorrow's round is exclusive to members.

FG CIRCUIT

Casas 2 up at Orchard

By Jong Arcano

CASSIUS Casas saved a 2-over-par 74 yesterday from the winds to preserve his 2-shot lead with one round left in the First Gentleman's Professional Golf Circuit at Orchard's Palmer.

Casas birdied three of the four par-5s to cushion the impact of a roller-coaster round in the circuit presented by San Miguel Beer.

With a 214 total, the Southwoods pro will be in the final flight for the fifth consecutive week. A victory--his second--will make him the new Order of Merit leader.

Close on his heels is Rodrigo Cuello, himself aching to end a victory spell in four years. The Mizuno pro bogeyed two of the last three holes like Casas for a similar 74 and 216.

Robert Pactolerin, another winless old hand in the circuit funded by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo's foundation in tandem with San Miguel Beer and WG&A Super Ferry, also shot a 74 that tied him for for third with Rey Pagunsan--four shots back at 218.

Pagunsan, winner at Tagaytay Midlands last week, stumbled into three consecutive bogeys from the 15th and wound up with a 75.

Casas said ball control was "very tough against the windy conditions" and added he was looking forward to a thrilling showdown today.

"Hindi masyadong marami ang nakadikit pero minsan lahat ng dasal pagkapalo kailangan mo. Hindi mo kasi alam kung saan dadalhin ng hangin ang bola mo," said Casas. (You need all the prayers to conquer the winds. Sometimes, you don't know where your ball is going to land.)

At one point, Casas said he used a 4-iron from 160 yards. Another time, he used an 8-iron from 190 yards.

Edwin Estrera faded away with a 79 after a 66 the day before for solo 12th at 222.

Tomo Yoshinago, the Japanese who placed second in the Philippine Open at Riviera three years ago, had a 75 to join rookie pro Cookie La'O at 219.

Next at 220 was another rookie pro, Angelo Que, who fired the day's best round of even-par 72, and veterans Richard Sinfuego, Danny Zarate and Eddie Bagtas.

Merit leader Mars Pucay was in solo 13th after a 76=223.

The scores:

214 - C. Casas 68-72-74

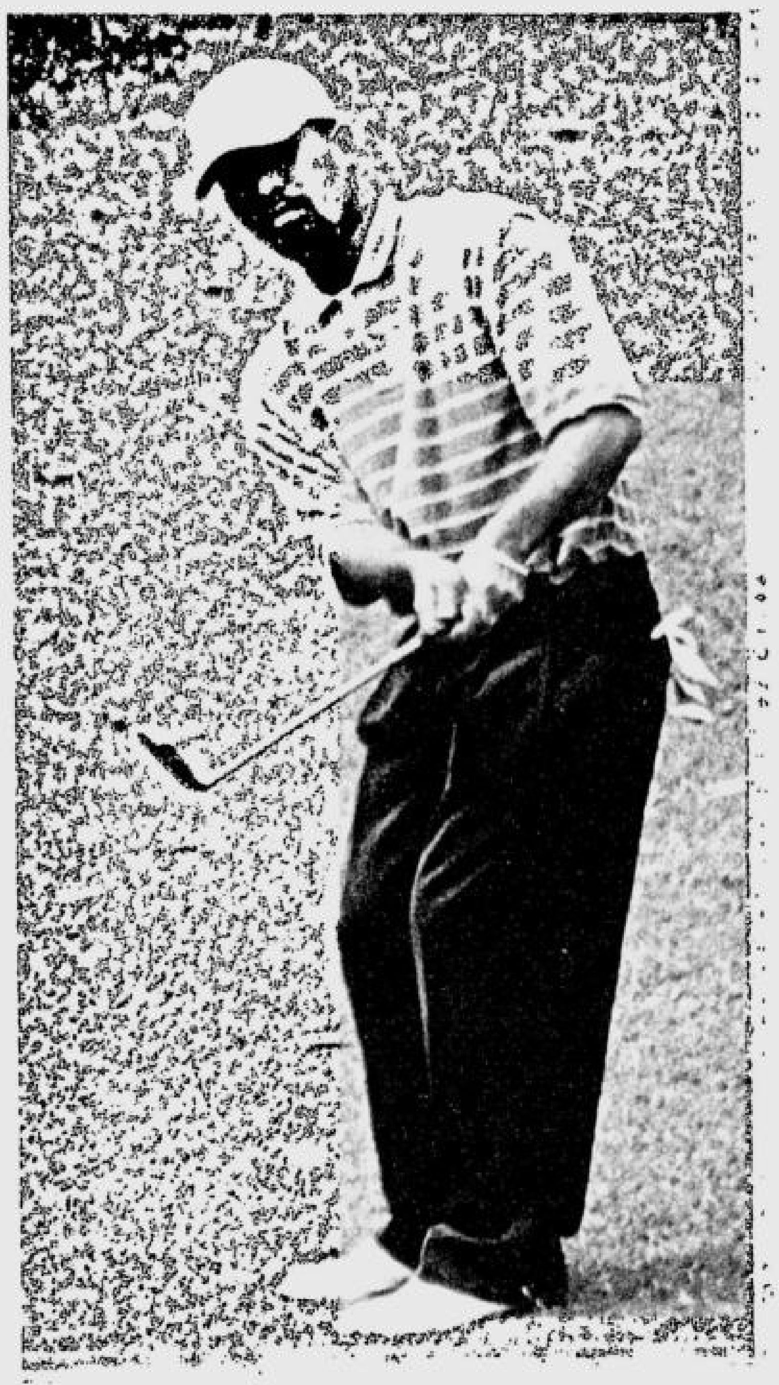
216 - R. Cuello 71-71-74

218 - R. Pactolerin 73-71-74, R. Pagunsan 76-67-75

219 - C. La'O 70-75-74, T. Yoshinaga (Jpn) 72-72-75

220 - A. Que 72-76-72, R. Sinfuego 71-75-74, D. Zarate 71-74-75, E. Bagtas 72-72-76

221 - R. Broblo 74-72-75



CASAS: In final flight for fifth straight week. PDI PHOTO

Woods accepts Mickelson apology

SAN DIEGO, California—Tiger Woods said he accepted an apology on Wednesday from golf rival Phil Mickelson after an unpleasant remark about Woods' "inferior" equipment.

"We all know Phil can try and be a smart aleck at times," said Woods. "I think this was one of those instances where it just backfired on him." Woods, who uses clubs and balls made by his mega-sponsor Nike, said he and Mickelson aired out their differences on the phone Wednesday morning.

It was the first time the two had spoken since Mickelson told a golf magazine that Woods was the only one who could overcome "the equipment that he is stuck with". This is just the latest in a string of run ins betweeen Woods and Mickelson. It is a subject neither likes to discuss in public.

While he wouldn't go so far as to say they are mates again, Woods said he fully understands Mickelson reputation as a wise guy and that the comment was made jokingly.

"We talked (on the phone) and cleared the air. Everything is fine. No worries," said Woods. "It wasn't a personal shot at me." Mickelson, considered the top player to have never won a major, recently changed his ball and driver to Titleist.

Woods, who has endorsed Nike since joining the PGA Tour in 1996, made the switch from Titleist clubs to a Nike driver and irons last year. He has won four majors with the Nike ball and two more after switching drivers. *AFP*

Annika to play vs men

FORT WORTH, Texas—Annika Sorenstam wondered how she would stack up against stronger players on tougher courses under the most suffocating scrutiny. So she's going to play against men. The world's best female golfer accepted an invitation Wednesday to play in the Colonial in May, which would make her the first woman in 58 years to compete on the PGA Tour. *AP*

San Beda holds alumni golf tomorrow

SAN Beda College will hold its Alumni Homecoming Golf Tournament tomorrow at the Club Intramuros, Manila.

Tee off time of the tournament for Bedans and friends of SBC is from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The tournament will be hosted by the High School Class 1953 and 1978 together with the San Beda College Law Golf Club and the San Beda Alumni Association.

Major sponsors are United Auctioneers ,Inc. ABS_Gen Herbs International, Bench, Associated Marine Officers and Seamen's Union of the Philippines (AMOSUP), Trans-National Diversified Group and Philippine Daily Inquirer.

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Red Sox co-owner dies, 72

BOSTON–Haywood Sullivan, the former co-owner and general manager of the Boston Red Sox who was blamed for the departure of beloved Carlton Fisk from the Major League Baseball club, died Wednesday at age 72.

Sullivan had suffered a stroke in Fort Myers, Florida, Red Sox spokesman Kevin Shea said.

Sullivan joined Jean Yawkey and Buddy LeRoux as part-owner of the Red Sox in 1978 and served as general manager from 1978-1983.

His place in Boston lore was assured in 1980 when he did not mail in a timely fashion a contract to Fisk, the popular catcher who wound up in the Hall of Fame.

Fisk became a free agent, signed with the Chicago White Sox and played another 13 seasons.*AFP*

SPORTSTV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA - Boston vs Portland, 11 a.m. (r - 9 p.m.), Star Sports

NBA Inside Stuff, 8:30 p.m., Star Sports

POOL: Mosconi Cup 2002, 1 p.m. and 9 p.m. (r), ESPN

Rack 'Em Up 2, 1:30 p.m. (r), Star Sports

GOLF: The Golf Club 2003, 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. (r), Star Sports

RP karters display might in Indonesia

SENTUL, Indonesia--Filipinos Eduardo "Dado" Pena and Michelle Bumgarner topped their respective categories in the 2002-2003 CIK-FIA Asia Zone Open karting championships at the Sentul international racetrack here over the weekend.

Pena bagged the overall title in the Intercontinental A, while Bumgarner captured the crown in the Jr. Intercon class to underscore the Filipinos' impressive showing in the four-nation, three-part series also held in Carmona, Cavite last August and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, last December.

Pena, a 15-year-old high school student of Southridge (Alabang), finished with a three-round aggregate of 71 points, seven points ahead of his closest rival Nik Iruan of Malaysia in the Intercontinental A.

Bumgarner and fellow Filipino karter Mateo Guidecelli finished 1-2 in the junior intercontinental class.

Bumgarner, the only female competitor in the registry, wound up with 68 points, followed by Guidecelli with 65 points and Kenny Kartasashmita of Indonesia with 64 points.

"We're very happy with the accomplishments of our karters. It only shows that our karters are at par with our Asian neighbors in terms of talents and skills," said head of delegation Johnny Tan, who also thanked Casino Filipino, Shell and the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) for their all-out support to the karting team.

Two other Filipino entries–Lee Bumgarner and son Mark Bumgarner–also made their presence felt in their respective classes.

Lee finished second overall in the Rotax Max Challenge behind Ferhan Fauzy of Malaysia.

Mark, on the other hand, wound up third overall in the cadet 85cc category behind two Malaysian entries.

Koreans join Paba tilt

SOUTH Korean national high school champion Chun Chon has given the 17th Philippine Amateur Baseball Association (Paba) Senior championship an international flavor when it opens tomorrow at the Rizal Memorial ballpark.

The Chun Chon team, from the city of the same name northeast of Seoul, takes the place of University of the Philippines, which begged off.

The Koreans have been in the country the past three weeks undergoing spring training at the Rosario Sports Complex in Pasig City in preparation for their national high school season this coming summer.

"The entry of Chun Chon, definitely, gave the Paba Senior championship an international caliber competition besides adding prestige to the tournament," Paba president Hector Navasero said after his board approved the visiting team's participation.

Chun Chon will be joining the 11-team cast, headed by defending champion Navy, and UAAP titlist La Salle. Other teams entered are Air Force, Army, Adamson University, University of Santo Tomas, Philab, Rizal Technical U, Polytechnic University of the Philippines and Angeles University Foundation.

A youth tournament involving Philab, International Little League Association of Manila (Illam), Philippine Tot Baseball Selection and Tanauan of Batangas completes the two-tier series.

PCC derby stakes ₱.3M

A CASH prize of P300,000 will be at stake when a special 4-cock derby is held at 7 tonight at the Pasay City Cockpit.

Sponsored by Sagupaan super-Feeds and Sagupaan Hammer Dewormer, the derby is hosted by Lito Alcantara of Taguig, the surprise solo winner in last week's "Bigtime 5-Cock Derby." Alcantara expects some 56 fights tonight. Entry fee is P10,000.

Participants must submit entries today, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and may contact 816-6750, 843-1890 and 843-1746 for details.

Also scheduled at Pasay City Cockpit is the "2nd PCCA 4-Cock Derby on Feb. 21, offering a cash prize of P300,000. Entry fee is P10,000. Submission of weights is strictly one day before derby.

A 5-cock derby is set on Feb. 28 with James Uy as host.

Fil-fors Senate hearing reset

By June Navarro

THE BOMBSHELL against alleged fake Fil-foreign players in the PBA failed to materialize as the Senate yesterday reset the proceedings to another day.

Sen. Robert Barbers, head of the committee on games, amusements and sports, called off the inquiry which aims to question the 25 Fil-fors and pin down the "Fil-shams" whose citizenship documents are highly suspect.

Barbers said his committee postponed the grilling of the Fil-fors to give way to the Senate's inquiry on a money-laundering scheme in one of the government agencies.

Prior to the hearing, the Senate subpoenaed the Fil-fors to present themselves before the committee.

Asi Taulava of Talk N' Text, Barangay Ginebra's Eric Menk, Andy Seigle of Purefoods, San Miguel's Nic Belasco, James Wallkvist and Chris Jackson of Shell are on top of the Senate's purge list.

TAULAVA

Instead, what happened was a reiteration of the previous hearings, which tackled the issuance of work permits to foreign coaches by the Department of Labor and Employment and the illegitimate entry of nine Fil-for rookies, among others.

Barbers said the Dole owes the Senate an explanation after it issued an alien employment permit to American coach Paul Woolpert of Talk N' Text.

He again questioned the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation for clearing nine Fil-for rookies who were drafted and signed by the teams in the PBA despite a hold order while the Senate investigation is ongoing.

Fil-for rookies Mike Cortez (Alaska), Harvey Carey (Talk N' Text), Brandon Cablay (Alaska), Jimmy Alapag (Talk N' Text), Eugene Tejada (Alaska), Rob Johnson (Ginebra), William Villa (Talk N' Text) and Dustin Coloso (Red Bull) were able to hook up with the PBA.

COMPLETE NBA RESULTS

Minnesota 102, Cleveland 91; Toronto 97, Atlanta 96; Philadelphia 119, Chicago 111 (ot); Golden State 113, New York 107; Memphis 97, New Jersey 90; Indiana 83, New Orleans 72; Houston 106, Utah 76; Milwaukee 120, Dallas 114; LA Lakers 113, Denver 102; Washington 108, LA Clippers 104. *AFP*

Piston vs Magic on Solar

THE RED-HOT Detroit Pistons, winners of five straight games, take on Tracy McGrady and the Orlando Magic "live" at 8:30 a.m. today (Friday, February 14) on Solar Sports, with a replay at 9 p.m.

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SPORTSWATCH

Don Bosco salvages 3rd

DUMAGUETE CITY—Don Bosco Technical Center of Cebu rallied from a 0-1 deficit to beat Masbate Comprehensive National High, 3-1 yesterday and salvage third place in the Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 football tournament at the Silliman pitch here. Ateneo was scheduled to face La Salle Academy of Iligan, a 2-1, winner over Masbate in the other semifinal.

JW Classic on Dream Cable

THE EXPLOSIVE action in the ongoing Johnnie Walker Classic in Australia will be shown live on the Dream Cable Channel daily and then on a slightly delayed basis on NBN Channel 4. Dream will air it from 2-6 p.m. today and from 12 noon to 4 p.m. tomorrow and Sunday and Channel 4 daily from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. through the facilities of Beginnings at Twenty Plus, Inc.

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Race 4--1. College Gem 2. Modern Classic 3. Diplomatic Bull 4. Houdini 5. High Fidelity
Race 5--1. With Distinction 2. Shining Pyramid 3. Laughing Matter
Race 6--1. Reigns Supreme 2. Namaste 3. Up Rising
Race 7--1. Korek Ka Dyan 2. Dynamite Jack 3. The Mailman 4. Pep Up 5. Epic Energy
Race 8--1. Hearts On Fire 2. Ginger Spice 3. Imus Emperor 4. Candid 5. Miraculous Star
Race 9--1. Overture 2. Persona Real 3. Golden Prince 4. Hi Quality 5. Parola Sunrise

Williams enters q'finals

ANTWERP, Belgium—Top-seeded Venus Williams overwhelmed Maja Matevzic 6-1, 6-1 Wednesday and joined third-seeded Justine Henin-Hardenne, who beat Czech Zuzana Ondraskova 6-4, 7-6 (2), in the quarterfinals of the Diamond Games.

Williams, second only to her sister Serena in the world rankings, took command from the start, raced to 5-0 lead and never looked back. Slovenia's Matevzic, ranked 51st, was lucky to win two games in a match which lasted 50 minutes.

Williams returned to the Diamond Games event to vie for the gold, diamond-encrusted racket worth about US$870,000, which goes to the first triple winner in any five-year span.

"I want that record, but the most important is to win matches," she said. "If the results are good, the racket will come automatically."

Henin-Hardenne lost the momentum after opening up an easy 5-1 lead over Ondraskova in the first set. Suddenly her shots were off and the Czech won the next three games.

"I lost my aggression and I have been feeling a bit ill," said Henin-Hardenne, ranked fourth in the world.

The Belgian still won the first set 6-4, but Ondraskova, ranked 132nd, raced to a 5-3 lead in the second set before her game came apart.

She double-faulted, sent easy balls long and let Henin-Hardenne get back into the set, which the Belgian eventually won in a tiebreaker. *AP*

Kafelnikov upset

MARSEILLE, France—Olivier Rochus of Belgium upset two-time Grand Slam winner Yevgeny Kafelnikov, 7-6 (5), 6-4, eliminating the Russian from the first round of the Open 13 on Wednesday.

The unseeded Rochus faces up-and-coming French teen Richard Gasquet in the second round. Kafelnikov, the sixth seed and winner of the tournament in 2001, was one of five seeded players ousted Wednesday. *AP*

Puentevella Golf Cup slated

THE ROTARY Club of Bacolod City will hold the 1st Monico Puentevella Golf Cup on Feb. 15-16 at Marapara.

The event, to be held in honor of Rep. Monico O. Puentevella of the lone district of Bacolod City, will stake free trips to the USA and Hong Kong sponsored by the Philippines Airlines as the major sponsor together with Pagcor, Samsung Electronics Philippines, Tanduay, Prudential Life, Allied Bank, Asia Brewery and the Philippine Sports Commission.

The Rotary Club of Bacolod City is headed by Isidro "Jun-Jun" Lizares. Tournament directors who will attend are Prince Gerochi and Past DG Dave Villanueva.

Participants will come from Mindanao, Cebu, Iloilo and members of the House of Representatives.

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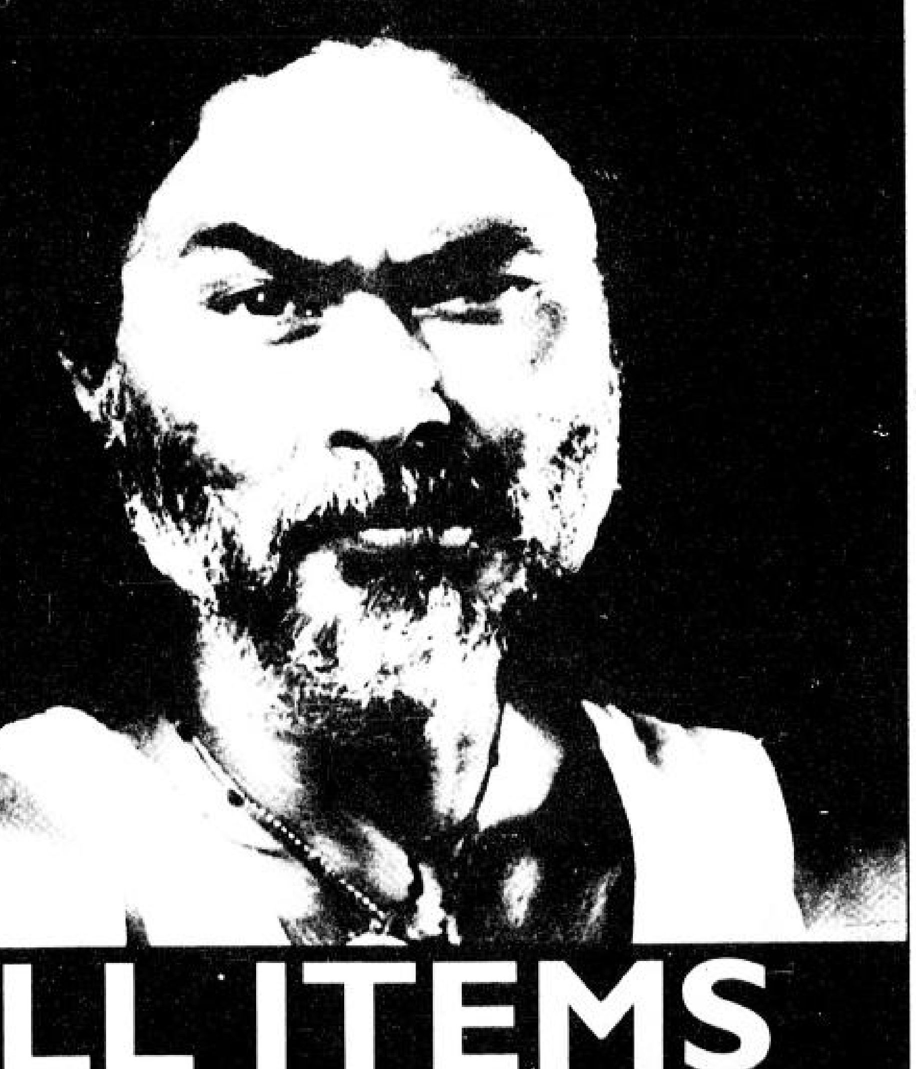

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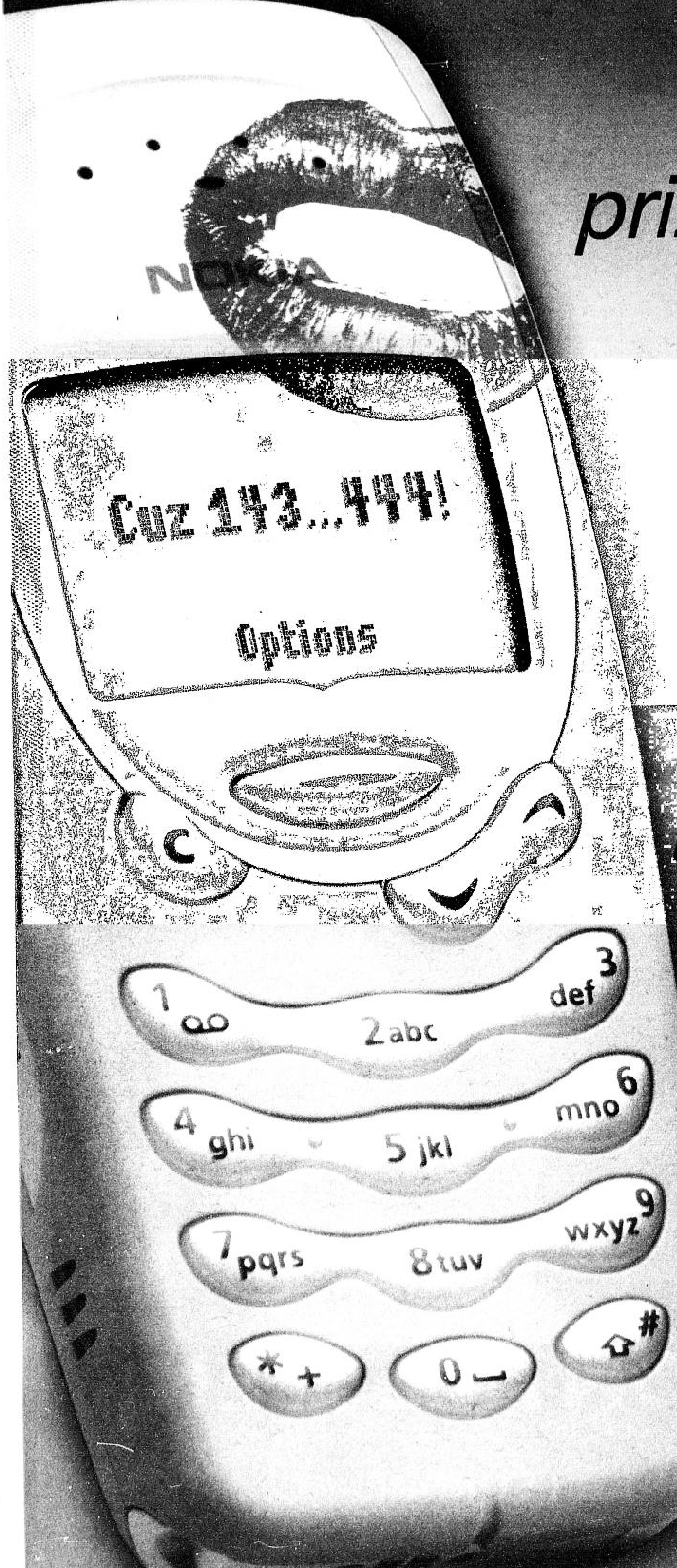

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BIR man killed in QC

BUREAU of Internal Revenue examiner Danilo Balmaceda, 52, of Project 3, Quezon City, was shot dead by a lone gunman early yesterday morning. Lawmen have no clue as to why the BIR man was killed as soon as he got home at around 1:20 a.m. yesterday. Witnesses described the gunman as tall, heavy with shoulder-length hair.

Alcuin Papa

Coding back for all PUVs

MMDA exempts private cars in UVVRP experiment

By Leila Salaverria

IT'S ALL systems go for Monday's implementation of the Unified Vehicular Volume Reduction Program on all public utility vehicles, including passenger buses.

Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando said that Metro Manila mayors on Wednesday gave him blanket authority until Feb. 21 to make decisions on how to implement the UVVRP.

"On Monday, all public utility vehicles—the jeepneys, the buses, the taxis and the FX—will be under the number coding scheme again," he told reporters yesterday after meeting with jeepney and taxi operators.

Fernando also said the new experiment is meant to check how best to implement the UVVRP.

"This way, we can gauge the need for the number coding," he said. "We've faced the worst case scenario. Now, one by one, we're bringing back (the UVVRP) to the different sectors."

He added that the experiment would also pinpoint the causes of traffic congestion in the metropolis, and said that through the experiments the MMDA has been conducting, the commuters and drivers could see for themselves what is good for traffic and what is not.

The UVVRP would be imposed on public utility vehicles until Feb. 21. After that date, the scheme could either stay or be lifted, depending on the results.

The UVVRP was suspended for three weeks beginning Feb. 3 in Metro Manila except Makati. But yesterday, Mandaluyong re-implemented the UVVRP, saying traffic in the city has become unmanageable.

Yesterday, Fernando said he was expecting "maybe one or two" towns and cities to ask for the re-implementation of the UVVRP before the deadline is up. If they do ask, Fernando said that he won't have to consult Metro Manila mayors because of the blanket authority given him.

Meanwhile, bus operators, who have

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IS IT OKAY IF I CALL YOU MINE	calumine	PAUL McCRANE
I NEED YOU	ineedyou	LEANNE RHYMES
IT MIGHT BE YOU	mightbu	STEPHEN BISHOP
ONLY HOPE	onlyhope	MANDY MOORE
THANK YOU	thankyou	DIDO
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Sucat bank robber identified

By Christian Esguerra

POLICE yesterday bared the identity of one of the heavily armed robbers who took nearly a million pesos in cash from a Prudential Bank branch in Parañaque City on Wednesday morning.

He was Marco Lanada, a resident of Talon in Las Piñas, and identified by security guards as among the four robbers, including a female companion, who disarmed them and broke into the vault. The rest of the group acted as lookout.

Mayor Joey Marquez yesterday put up a P100,000 reward to anyone who could give information on Lanada's whereabouts.

Police stormed Lanada's house hours after the robbery but did not find him there.

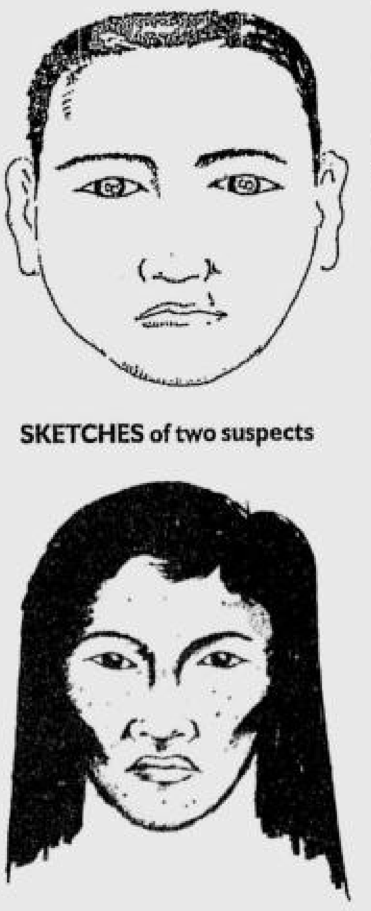
Lanada, 23, stands about 5'4", is dark skinned, slim, with semi-shaved hair, according to Supt. Rolando Estilles, Parañaque police chief.

Lanada worked as a driver for Jimeno Buenaventura, a beauty shop owner in Ema Paliko, Las Piñas.

Police yesterday released sketches of two of Lanada's companions based on the descriptions given by guards and officers, who had a brief firefight with the group.

The female robber, identified only as Liza, is in her late thirties, dark-skinned, and about 5'2" tall.

The driver of one of the getaway vehicles, a Starex van, is in his early thirties, burly, fair-skinned and stands 5'6".



SKETCHES of two suspects

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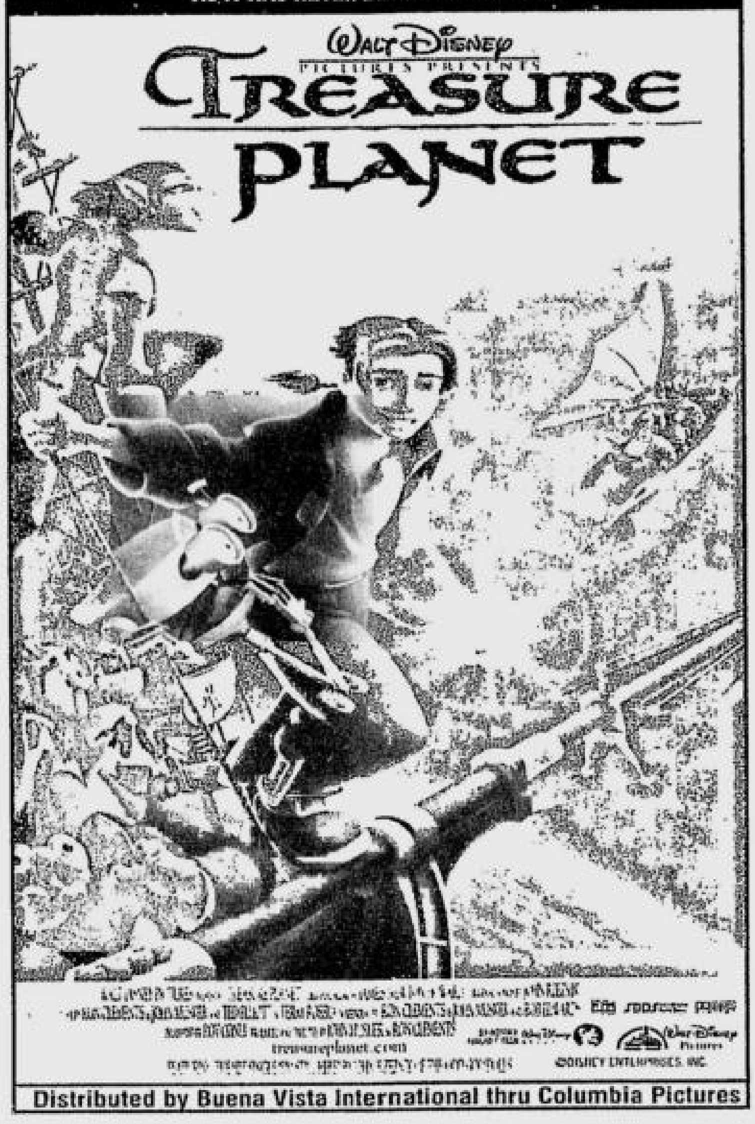

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Winner loses petition to stop park takeover

By Jerome Aning

A MANILA regional trial court judge yesterday rejected environmentalists' petition to stop City Hall from taking over the Arroceros Forest Park and building a teachers' center on a portion of the property.

In a ruling dated Feb. 11 but issued only yesterday, Judge Marivic Balisi-Umali of Manila RTC Branch 45 said she could not find "a valid ground" to issue a temporary restraining order in favor of Winner Foundation, developer of the park.

Tina Testa of the Winner Foundation sued Manila Mayor Lito Atienza for taking over the park and closing it, in preparation for the construction of the teacher's building.

Winner contends that it holds the mandate to develop the park through a 1993 Memorandum of Agreement with the city government.

The foundation said that the 2.1-hectare property could only be used as a park and that its development is not yet finished.

Since there is still a need to determine the validity of the MOA, Judge Umali said "an injunction is not available to take the property out of the control of one party and place it into that of another whose title has not been clearly established."

The court gave both parties 15 days to comment on Testa's other petition for a writ of preliminary injunction to halt the City Hall takeover while the case is being heard.

In a press briefing, Atienza welcomed the court's order and called it "a victory for the teachers."

"(T)his affirms our position that the rightful owners of the Arroceros property are the public school teachers of Manila and that the division of city schools and the city government have every right to pursue its development plans for the area," he said.

City Hall wants to build the school division's new headquarters on a portion of the park, and transform the rest of the area into a botanical garden.

NBP lawyer sacked for coddling convicted mayor behind bars

By Christian Esguerra

THE CHIEF legal officer of the New Bilibid Prisons has been relieved for allegedly protecting Rey Yap, ex-mayor of a town in Misamis Occidental convicted of masterminding the murder of a political rival in 1992.

Lawyer Angelito Moreno was placed on floating status for recommending that Yap be moved out of the disciplinary cell. Yap was ordered to the punishment cell after he allegedly yielded around P300,000 in fake cash during a raid last week.

Bureau of Corrections Director Ricardo Macala yesterday said Moreno was being investigated for violating prison rules and ignoring his directives.

In a memorandum dated Feb. 7, Moreno went against Macala's order and asked prisons officer Joselito Fajardo to move Yap and convicted drug trafficker Peter Co back to the maximum security compound.

Co also yielded drug paraphernalia and communications equipment in his cell in last week's raid conducted by the National Capital Region Police Office, Macala said.

The lawyer claimed the Office of the Superintendent failed to subject the inmates to medical examination before they were hauled to the "bartolina."

Already suspected of coddling high-profile inmates, Moreno even visited Yap and the others at Building 14 between 6:30 and 7 p.m. Wednesday, according to Macala.

"(Moreno) had no business to be there," Macala told the INQUIRER. "We have to find out why he went there, even though his recommendation had already been denied."

Yap has elevated his request for transfer at the Justice Department, claiming his life was in danger at the disciplinary cell. A prominent inmate has supposedly hired some prisoners to carry out the kill.

But Macala maintained that Yap would stay at Building 14 for at least a month, especially after an inmate identified with the former mayor tried to escape Wednesday night.

"The (escape try) only proved that he and his men can never be trusted," he said. "He should stop fearing for his life because I hold myself and my people responsible for anything that might happen to him. The safekeeping and rehabilitation of prisoners is the bureau's mandate."

Erap a plumber?

JOSEPH Estrada could be shocked or tickled by these: 1) A 31-year-old woman claims that she is the daughter of the detained former President; 2) The multiple charges the woman filed against Estrada was for allegedly abandoning her since childhood.

The complainant is Ma. Cecilia Enriquez Estrada, of Project 4, Quezon City.

The multiple charges, filed before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office, consisted of child abuse, hostage-taking, multiple attempted murder, libel and exploitation.

The complainant alleged Estrada got mad at her mother, Florencia Garcia Enriquez, for marrying another man. She claimed she suffered immeasurably, spent sickly childhood among squatters, had been badly scarred because of Estrada's neglect.

But in clarification, a woman who identified herself as the complainant's real mother, said Ms Estrada had been "depressed for a year now." Estrella Enriquez said Florencia Garcia Enriquez was actually an aunt of the complainant—she being the sister of the complainant's father. She added the complainant is the daughter of a plumber. She said the woman "has been like this for more than a year now, talking to herself and making up stories." *Agnes Donato*

Cops sued for prematurely declaring a man dead

THE FAMILY of Faustino Pastrano Jr., the security guard whom the police prematurely declared dead, is out to bury the erring lawmen in a flurry of lawsuits.

Dianne, elder sister of Pastrano Jr., said they are filing charges against members of the Northern Police District's Scene of the Crime Operations team, particularly medico legal officer Dr. Felimon Porciuncula, for reportedly pronouncing the guard dead when they found his body inside his quarters at the Monumento Plaza Shopping Arcade in Caloocan. The relatives said that Porciuncula declared Pastrano dead at around 7:30 a.m. and reported the cause of death as acute pancreatitis.

But Pastrano reportedly was still alive when Dr. Alex Juaregui checked on him at the Eusebio Funeral Homes in Malabon. *Tina Santos*

Teacher kills pa for mauling ma

By Philip Tubeza

HIGH school teacher Dennis D. Tumamao, 22, could no longer bear the sight of his jobless father beating up his mother.

When the elder Tumamao again tried to beat up his wife yesterday because she could not give him enough money to spend, the teacher stood up for his mother and killed his father Alexander, 50, police said.

Dennis, of Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila, is now facing parricide charges for killing his father, said Detective Diomedes Labarda of the Western Police District.

The victim, a former soldier who was dishonorably discharged from the Army in 1975, was allegedly drunk when he asked for money from his wife, Avancia, inside their residence at about 2:30 a.m. yesterday.

Police said Dennis lost his temper when he saw his father threatening his mother again. He later surrendered to the police.

Coding back...

From page A25

been exempted from the UVVRP, are expected to loudly protest the MMDA Chair's decision.

Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel De Dios said the MMDA is expecting a backlash from bus operators, but added that they have footage of buses that are only half full during peak hours on major thoroughfares.

"It would be difficult to just keep on talking and talking about these issues," Vergel De Dios said. "With the footage, we can show proof that the buses are not filling up with passengers."

The traffic director also said that even if the bus operators express their opposition to the UVVRP imposition on them, they would just have to grin and bear it.

"If we give in to all their demands, there would be chaos," he said.

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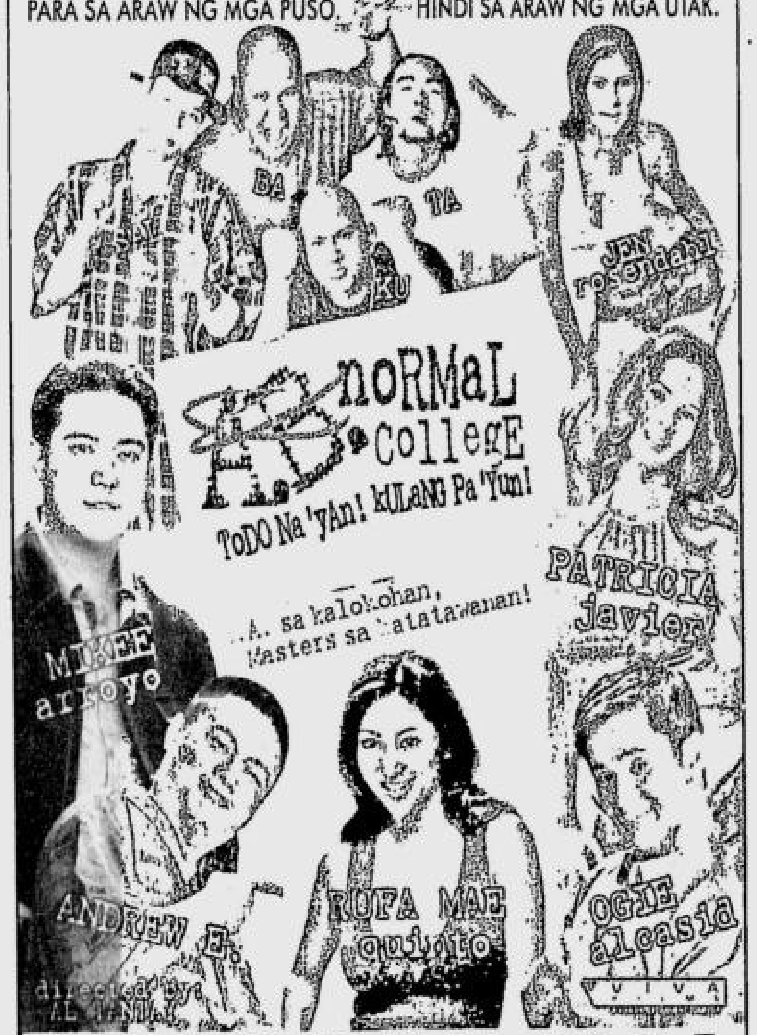
PARA SA ARAW NG MGA PUSO. HINDI SA ARAW NG MGA UTAK.



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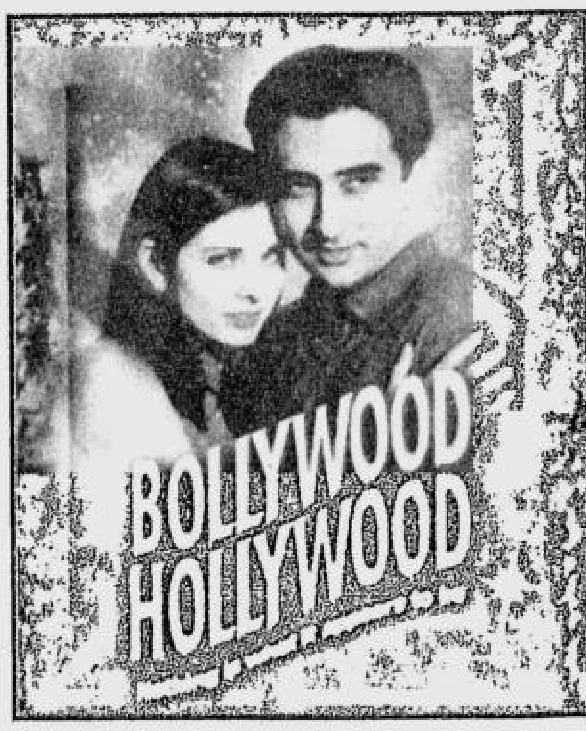

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The Hope of Freedom and Justice! Is Back!

Bridget Fonda is 'Snow Queen' on Hallmark Channel

HALLMARK Channel's centerpiece movie for the month of February is "Snow Queen," a heartwarming romance-adventure spectacle based on a much-loved classic fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen.

A Hallmark original presentation, "Snow Queen" headlines seasoned Hollywood star Bridget Fonda in the title role.

The four-hour miniseries debuts Feb. 15, with repeats on Feb. 16, 24 and 25.

The second part airs Feb. 16, with repeats on Feb. 17, 25 and 26.

"Snow Queen" is a sweeping tale of magic, suspense, adventure and the unmatched power of love.

"Snow Queen" has been described as a "good old-fashioned love story with an uncommon twist."

At the very heart of this classic tale is the romance between star-crossed young lovers Kai and Gerda (portrayed by Jeremy Guilbaut and Chelsea Hobbs, respectively). He is a bellboy, she, the daughter of the innkeeper. Quite understandably, her melancholic father, who lost his own love in the past, is against their union.

Already worlds apart, Kai and Gerda's love for each other is further tested by the sudden appearance of a mysterious lady guest at the inn.

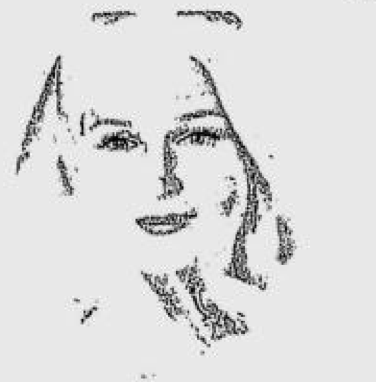
She is the legendary Snow Queen (Fonda), who somehow has an enigmatic connection to Gerda's past.

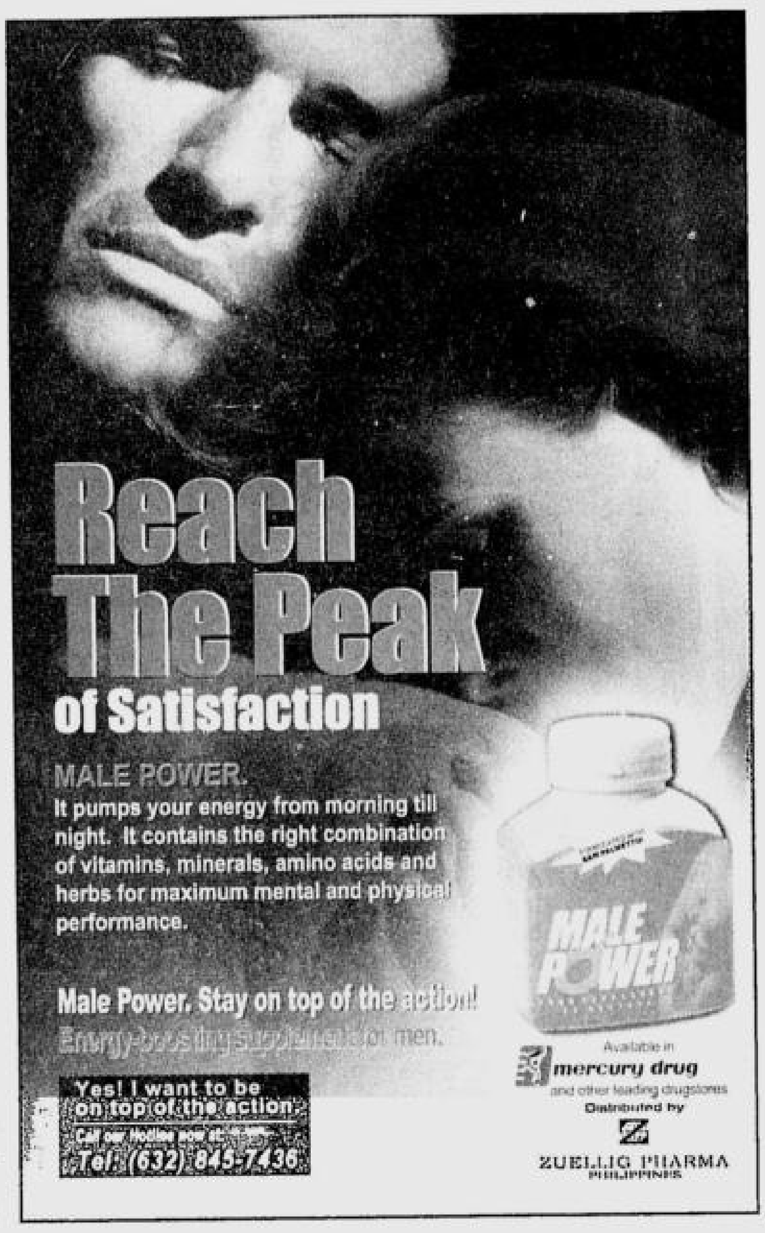
When the Snow Queen disappears with Kai, Garde resolves to find them, to reclaim and rescue her one true love.

As Gerda leaves the comforts of her hometown, she embarks on a thrilling journey that allows her to encounter a slew of colorful characters and adventures along the way.

It is in recreating Gerda's perilous quest that the filmmakers behind Snow Queen were able to make full use of first-rate special effects and production values.

Aside from the fabulous costumes of the cast and the awe-inspiring depiction of the Snow Queen's frigid domain, the mini-series also boasts of an ice-skating polar bear.


TITLE ROLE. Bridget Fonda as the "Snow Queen."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TULONG ARAL NG PETRON

TULONG ARAL ng PETRON

Employees Share a Special Gift of Love

For many of us, Valentine's Day will be all about having a special someone, giving out romantic gifts or treating a partner to an ideal night out. On this day, love is in the air and romance is the theme that will inspire people.

HOPING FOR A WAY OUT OF POVERTY. For some 516,000 children living in Metro Manila, Valentine's Day is a concept as alien as a decent meal. These are the sons and daughters of people who have lived a life of poverty in the tight confines of the metropolis. Apart from their parents, there are no special someone in their lives. Their nights out are perhaps spent not on enjoying life but by surviving it by selling cigarettes or roses along the dangerous roads of the city. And maybe the closest they will ever feel to being loved and inspired is in constantly hoping that there is a way out of poverty.

But as stories of love are wont to go, there is always a happy ending. In the case of the indigent children, 1,000 of their number have been given the chance to go though elementary school beginning Grade One in a special gift of love called TULONG ARAL NG PETRON.

A RARE GIFT. Initiated in early 2002 by Petron Foundation, TULONG ARAL is Petron's way of sharing its blessings with the less privileged and in the long run, contribute to the nation's fight against poverty. Long actively engaged in the practice of corporate social responsibility, this program highlights the company's efforts to provide relevant educational assistance through the Petron Foundation.

In TULONG ARAL, the Foundation has partnered with Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Department of Education to enroll 1,000 six-year old children in 90 public elementary schools throughout Metro Manila. As scholars, these children received school uniforms, shoes, school supplies, and a daily meal allowance. The program also provides for support programs such as parent effectiveness and alternative livelihood. It is a rare gift package, one that has moved a lot of parents of the TULONG ARAL scholars.

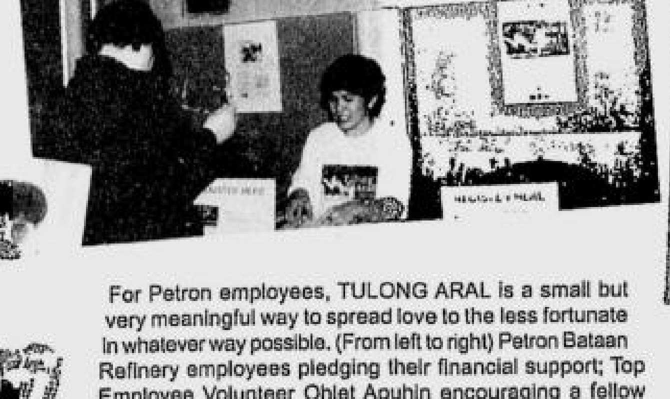
A NOTE OF APPRECIATION. *"Kami po ay taos-pusong nagpapasalamat sa mga biyaya at pagtangkilik ninyo sa aming mga anak sa pagtaguyod sa kanilang pag-aaral,"* says one mother from Manila, speaking on behalf of all the scholars and their parents in the district. Their words of appreciation also speak of their common plight. *"Ang inyong naibigay ay isang napakalaking tulong sa aming mga magulang upang mapagaan ang aming dalahing pinansyal."*

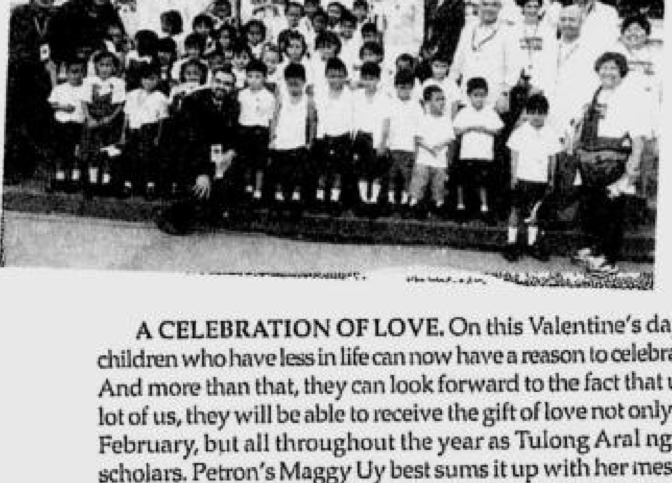
School officials and teachers likewise see the program as heaven-sent for the parents, who prod their children to do good in school. *"Yung suportang ibinibigay ng mga magulang ay maganda rin para sa mga bata at dahil alam nila na sponsored ito ng Petron ay iniiwasan nilang lumiban sa klase ang mga bata at pina-follow up nila lagi ang pag-aaral ng mga bata para ma-achieve nila ang mataas na grades,"* says Ms. Ramona S. Salarda, Grade 1 teacher and adviser to three Tulong Aral scholars in Apelo Cruz Elementary School in Pasay City. *"Eto nga po at natutuwa sila sa mga ibinibigay ng Petron sa kanila kaya pursigidong pumasok at mag-aral araw-araw."* The District Supervisor of Valenzuela City expressed joy at Petron's efforts in sharing this program to help develop the education of the children, but felt more touched in knowing that most of the funds from Tulong Aral came from the employees.

PETRON EMPLOYEES SHARE THE GIFT OF LOVE. For their part, employees of Petron responded to the call for support to Tulong Aral with a generous outpouring of donations. Nathaniel Bunying, just six months in Petron as Market Planning Analyst, immediately pledged a monthly donation. He also sought and got approval from a popular fastfood chain to place Tulong Aral coin banks in their outlet. *"I share the same goal of wanting children to enjoy the benefits of a good education,"* declared Nathaniel. *"The project is long term and we can see that there are really a lot of children who are in need of help,"* says Ohlet Apuhin, Petron's Administrative Analyst and key member of the company's Employee Volunteer Council. *"This is a project of the company and in my own little way, I wish to contribute. Wala naman ako masyadong pera so I make my contribution through service."* Jennifer Sulit of Supply Planning shares this observation: *"If ever there is an opportunity for me to contribute to society even in a small way, I think it should be in education. I believe out-of-school kids should have an opportunity to be inside the classroom and be given a chance to have a brighter future. I also think there are many people who want to help these kids but do not know how to go about it."* Fellow employee and Business Systems & Software Application Development Manager Maggy Uy sees Tulong Aral as a very generous and noble program that deserves every employee's support. *"I want these children to have a fighting chance in life when they grow up,"* she says. *"I want them to do the same thing for other children who might need the same kind of assistance in the future."*

CARING BEYOND BOUNDS. As far as the employees and friends of Petron are concerned, there has been no limit to the kind of support they can give to Tulong Aral. During an annual summer outing event, one winning group from the Corporate Planning Division gamely set aside their prize as a donation to the program. Others who cannot afford to sponsor a child by themselves pooled their resources together and buddy-sponsored one scholar. Even distance has not been a hindrance as employees from Petron's facilities in the provinces (from as far north in Aparri to down south in General Santos) have cast their support to the program. David Mahilum, Petron Bataan Refinery Administrative Manager, has given an hour's equivalent of his salary every month until the life of the program. *"Education is the surefire way of helping our needy brothers improve their way of living,"* he says. *"Their only available resource is their pride and intelligence. Hence they should be given the education that will allow them to render service and be rewarded accordingly."*

Six-year old Milky Rocacurva, a Tulong Aral scholar from Pasay City, perhaps best reflects the appreciation of all her co-Tulong Aral beneficiaries to this gift when she declares her plan for the future: *"Magtatrabaho po ako sa Petron para makatulong din sa mga batang katulad ko."*





For Petron employees, TULONG ARAL is a small but very meaningful way to spread love to the less fortunate in whatever way possible. (From left to right) Petron Bataan Refinery employees pledging their financial support; Top Employee Volunteer Ohlet Apuhin encouraging a fellow employee to join in a house visit; members of top management and theEmployee Volunteer Council sharing time with the TULONG ARAL scholars in a special day at the Quirino Grandstand.

A CELEBRATION OF LOVE. On this Valentine's day, these children who have less in life can now have a reason to celebrate love. And more than that, they can look forward to the fact that unlike a lot of us, they will be able to receive the gift of love not only during February, but all throughout the year as Tulong Aral ng Petron scholars. Petron's Maggy Uy best sums it up with her message: *"I want these people to know that there are people out there who care for them, that there is love in the world, and that there is hope."*

TULONG ARAL NG PETRON is a project of
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DSWD
To find out how you can help, call 8863142 or visit www.petronfoundation.com
ADVT.

HEART AND SPONTANEITY. Mai Castro and her passion for Latin music.

ONDA LATINO. Shares the stage with Mai in Valentine concert tonight.

MAI CASTRO

She hypnotizes with Latin music

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

THERE is always a natural flow of life and passion in Mai Castro when she is caught in the throbbing labyrinth of "Amor Amor Amor."

She doesn't just sing it; she feels and lives it and that she says is the essence of Latin music.

What is easy about the line of songs she specializes in is that she could connect without effort. In a performance engagement, she observes people before a concert, second-guess what they would prefer and almost always, she was right.

When they want to start quietly, she dishes out romantic songs and later into the night, she introduces the passion of Latin music.

Feel good

"When Latin music hits you, it sort of hypnotizes you," Mai says. "You forget where you came from and feeling its sound, you really end up dancing."

There was one episode when she acceded to dance with a guest and they whirled and whirled, only to find out later that the man had only one arm.

"I did not mind it at all," recalls Mai. "He was enjoying himself and I was enjoying myself and I feel good because I must have made him feel special dancing with him even if he has a handicap."

She acquired a feel for Latin music much better with experience.

"You can't hack Latin songs without the emotion required of them," says Mai. "You must emote it and that takes a lot of heart and spontaneity."

Mai will take centerstage at Merk's Bar Bistro in a Valentine's show tonight.

Her bittersweet Valentines story also hastened her emotional maturity.

When she first fall in love and found out they were incompatible, she was heartbroken so she left Manila, returned to Butuan and stopped singing.

Broken love affair

She gained weight from not doing anything and realized there is a better life after a broken love affair.

"It was stupid of me to think that my world has crumbled after that love affair," Mai recalls.

She realized there is a much more saner life ahead of heavy emotional involvement. "Now, I'm cool even without a love life. As they say, life must go on."

But that experience made her a natural interpreter of Latin music.

"You get better with experience and you get deeper with it even in the way you sing," she says.

Mai's interest in Latin music started as early as age seven, when in far away Butuan City in Mindanao, she was fascinated by the guitar and her aunt would ask her to memorize the lilting "Besa Me Mucho."

"That introduced me early into Spanish songs and into the Latin beat," Mai narrates.

It was a natural inclination as her grandfather is a Castillian from Madrid who was married to a Filipina from Mindanao. He would get mad hurtling Spanish expletives, but what Mai remembers was his grandfather's love for Latin music.

She also remembers singing while helping her mother do kitchen chores in a restaurant they own in Butuan.

Love for singing eventually saw her in amateur singing contests, which she won hands down.

Her first big break was singing in a Love Boat doing Asian cruise between Australia and New Zealand and then in hotel lounges and cafes.

Her present manager, Mary Anne Gomez, discovered her in a club named Bogota, and the latter saw much promise.

Points out Gomez: "The first time I saw Mai in Bogota, I said this girl is good, she looks good and I said somebody with that height and with those limbs and good legs has no way to go but Latin because she looks it. First of all, she can sing and Spanish to her is second nature.

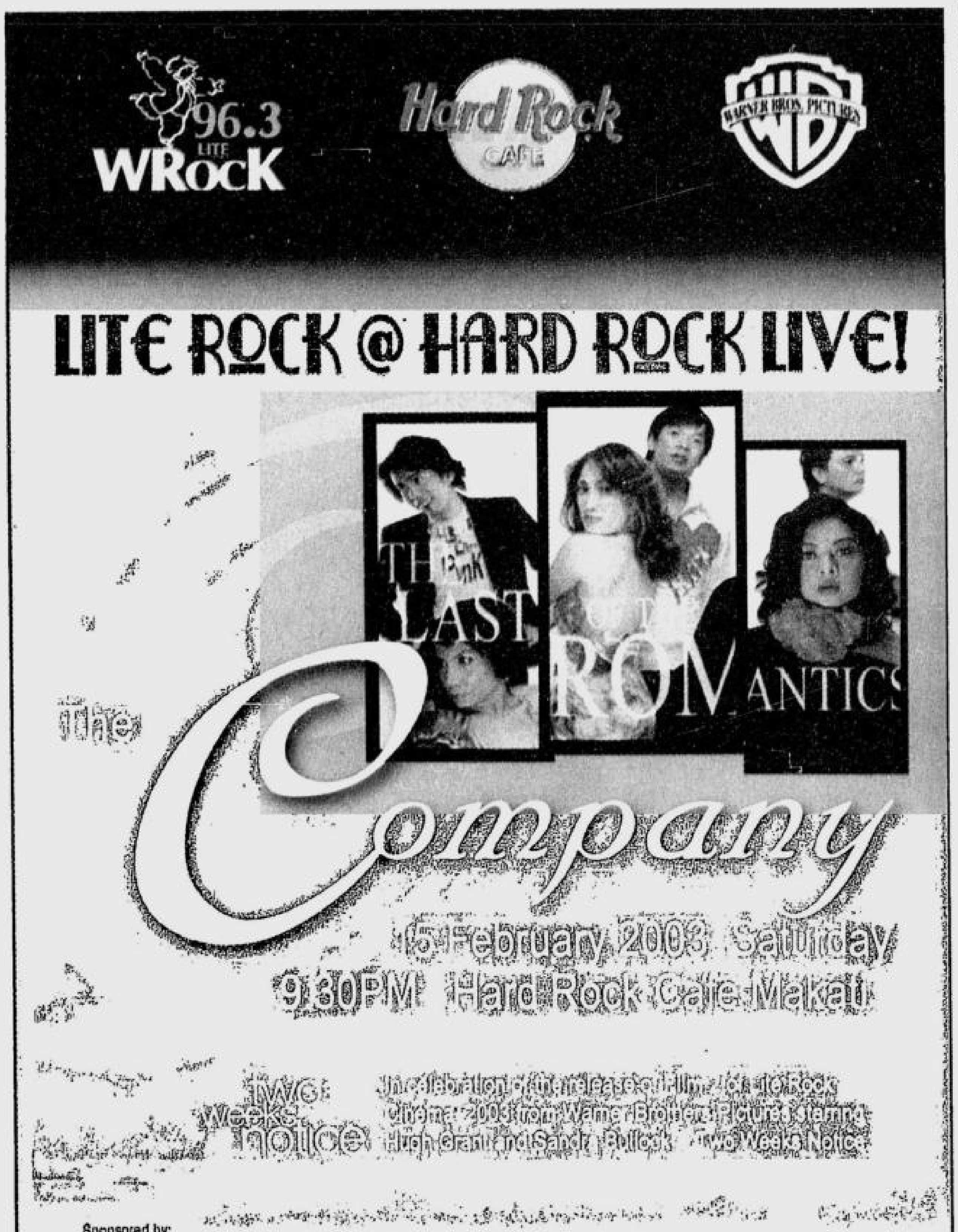
Big hit

"The first projects I gave her went very well. She is fast getting a consistent following and I thought this year, she should have an album and she should go abroad. I was just in Paris and I was looking at this place and I said Mai Castro would be a big hit here."

Merk's Bistro owner Richard Merk, who adds a jazz flavor in the Valentine's concert called "In the Name of Love," has seen the side of Mai Castro that will help her survive stiff competition in the entertainment world.

"She has what it takes to do justice to Latin music," Richard notes. "She works hard. I like her work ethics and good as she is, she will surely go far."

("Loving You... Latin Night Valentines at Merk's" also features the Onda Latino Band. For inquiries, call 757-4721)



LITE ROCK @ HARD ROCK LIVE!

The Company

15 February 2003 Saturday
9:30PM Hard Rock Cafe Makati

In celebration of the release of Film [illegible] Rock Cinema 2003 from Warner Brothers Pictures starring Hugh Grant and Sandra Bullock "Two Weeks Notice"

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Back-to-back at Dish

SIDE A. Shares the stage with Freestyle at the Big Dome.

FEBRUARY promises to be rosier and lovelier at Dish, with its impressive band lineup.

Experience a romantic evening as Pablo Santos and Pido with Take One serenade you with their love songs tonight.

Relive the glorious days of the '60s and '70s era with the music of Rockin' Revival and Flinstones, with Mila Garcia on Mondays and regular crowd drawer Spirit of '67 on Tuesdays.

Freestyle, Route '70 and Side A unleash their brand of unbeatable music on Wednesdays.

Come alive with South Border, Chedie with Parliament Syndicate and Overdrive as they groove on Thursdays.

Catch the cool sound of Chronic, Barbie's Cradle and Pido with Take One as they perform all Fridays of this month.

Have a lively weekend with Chedie and The Parliament Syndicate alongside Time and A Half back-to-back with The Rage Band on Saturdays.

Dish's Valentine's offering tonight presents guitarist Paolo Santos back to back with Pido With Take One in "Give P's A Chance."

Get a chance to win a free trip to Boracay for three days and two nights at Waling-Waling Resort.

SHOWS

Purple Ostrich

BALLADEER Chad Borja, Jenine Desiderio and K-10 Band are featured in a dinner show, "Musical Rendezvous," 7 tonight at Island Cove Resort's Purple Ostrich Bar, Disco and Concert Hall.

The performers will serenade guests with well-loved tunes over candle-lit dinner amid the lush tropical courtyard garden at the Island Cove.

Tickets at P1,200 include dinner with drinks, VIP seats and complimentary wine during the show; P800 (dinner, drink and show); P400 (show ticket and one drink).

Call Island Cove Resort at (046) 434-0210 in Cavite (02) 810-3740 in Makati, toll free numbers (02) 810-3718, 810-3732 and 810-3764; e-mail at inquiry@islandcovephil.com or visit www.islandcovephil.com.

Romance at the malls

ROXANNE Barcelo and Paolo Ballesteros of the TV soap series "Kahit Kailan," will visit Robinsons Metro East at 4 p.m. today, while Julia Clarete and Lawrence Mumar of "Sa Puso Ko Iingatan Ka," will be at Robinsons Place Imus.

Nancy Castiglione and Biboy Ravales invade Robinsons Starmills Pampanga on Feb. 15, while love team Carlo Aquino and Angelika Panganiban play beautiful music at Robinsons Place Novaliches.

Paolo and Roxanne will also be at Robinsons Townmall Los Baños on Feb. 16.

Camille Pratts and Danilo Barrios will be at the newly opened Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

All shows start 4 p.m. For inquiries, contact Ad and Promo department at 632-7672.

'Voice of the Heart'

THE "AKAFEELLAS" will bring their own brand of music at Canyon Woods Clubhouse in Laurel, Batangas, in a post Valentine show, Feb. 15.

Special guests are Arnee Hidalgo and Luke Mejares.

Canyon Woods Residential Resort is a sprawling property of 300 homes of club members.

Tickets are at P200 for members, P150 for children and P300 for non-members.

For details, email www.canyonwoods.com

Rufa Mae with The Hunks

AFTER having Rudy Fernandez as her leading man in the Metro Manila Film Festival entry, "Hula Mo, Huli Ko," sexy actress-comedienne Rufa Mae Quinto gets a handful when she joins The Hunks on a post-Valentine's Day show at the Casino Filipino-Parañaque tomorrow at 9 p.m.

"It's Raining Hunks 2" is a repeat of The Hunks' successful show at the casino last year, with Rosanna Roces as special guest.

With Rufa Mae's antics, expect a pandemonium when she performs live with Jericho Rosales, Diether Ocampo, Piolo Pascual, Bernard Palanca and Carlos Agassi.

"It's Raining Hunks 2" is mounted by Live Artists Production.

Call 920-2643 and (0918) 922-1542 or SM Ticketnet at 911-5555.

'Love X 2'

"LOVE x 2" features Side A and Freestyle, two of the most popular bands in the country today at the Araneta Coliseum tonight. Both bands will perform their signature songs–Side A's "Forevermore," "Hold On" and "Got To Believe In Magic"; and Freestyle's "So Slow," "This Time," "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang" and "I Wanna Get Close" – plus cover versions of songs from the '70s, '80s and '90s.

The bands will be joined by the Hotlegs and the Manoeuvers.

For inquiries, call SM Ticketnet (913-8684) or Viva Concerts (413-2572).

Aliw Theater

COMEDY queen Rufa Mae Quinto performs live in a free concert, 9 p.m., tonight at the Aliw Theater, Star City Complex in Pasay City.

Rufa Mae's performance is part of the Manila Broadcasting Company's ongoing concert series.

Gladys and the Boxers with K will be joining Rufa Mae in this free concert. The MBC Concert Series at the Aliw Theater has been the stage for the country's top entertainers such as Gary Valenciano, South Border, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Kuh Ledesma, Freestyle, Side A and just recently, Jaya.

'OA sa Puso' extended

DUE to insistent public demand, Viva Concerts is extending hitmaker Ogie Alcasid's concert series at the Onstage in Greenbelt, "OA Sa Puso," with performances tonight, tomorrow, plus on Feb. 21, 22, 27, 28 and March 1.

Joining Ogie in the show are Jaya on Feb. 14 and 15, Regine Velasquez on Feb. 21 and 22, Zsa Zsa Padilla on Feb. 27, Pops Fernandez on Feb. 28 and Lani Misalucha on March 1.

Also featured are the Sex Balls (on Feb. 15 only), where Ogie and his "Bubble Gang" cohorts Wendell Ramos, Antonio Aquitania and Michael V mimic the wildly popular Sex Bomb Dancers.

Tickets are priced at P900, P1200 and P1500 for the Feb. 14 and 15 shows; and P800, P1000 and P1200 for the Feb. 21, 22, 27, 28 and March 1 shows.

Tickets are available at all Ticketworld outlets (891-5610). For inquiries, call Viva Concerts at 413-2572.

'Like Father, Like Daughter'

HAJJI Alejandro teams up with daughter Rachel as they perform in an evening of memorable music, "Like Father, Like Daughter," Feb. 15 at Casino Filipino Tagaytay.

Known for such hits as "Kay Ganda ng Ating Musika," "Nakapagtataka," and "Panakip Butas" and much more, Hajji Alejandro's songs were part of the hits that would coin the phrase, OPM (Original Pilipino Music).

Rachel Alejandro returns to the entertainment stage after a successful performance as the energetic Mimi in the Asian version of the Tony award winning musical "Rent" in Manila, Hong Kong and Singapore.

The concert is produced by Events and Shows Inc. with Casino Filipino Tagaytay.

Tickets are available in all SM Ticketnet outlets, Sunrise Holiday Mansion Tagaytay and Casino Filipino Tagaytay Concierge Section.

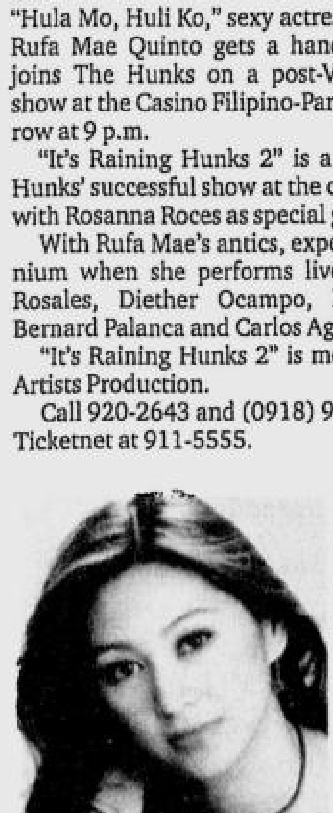
For inquiries and reservations, call Events and Shows, Inc. at 6884404/7051751, cellphone 09165314058 or Casino Filipino-Tagaytay at (046)4131103.

Edsa Shangri-la

GET caught in the rapture and romance of Valentine's Day as Edsa Shangri-La, Manila features multi-talented diva Rachel Alejandro in a Valentine dinner-concert tonight.

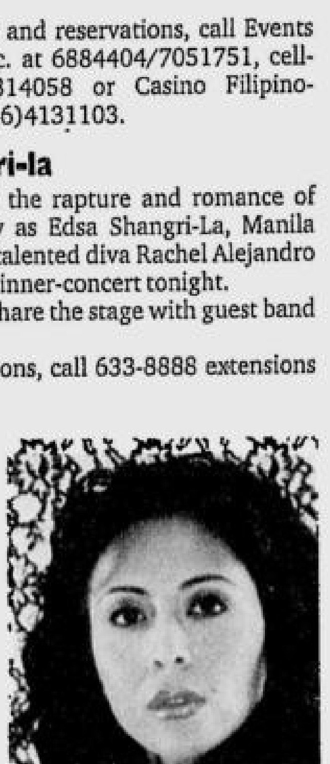
Rachel will share the stage with guest band Route 70.

For reservations, call 633-8888 extensions 2738 or 2739.



QUINTO

ALCASID



ALEJANDRO

MARISSA SANCHEZ

'I have talent, take me seriously'

By Marinel R. Cruz

"DIVASTATING." Marissa Sanchez pokes fun at being a so-called "diva."

PEOPLE are so used to seeing her funny side in stand-up comedy shows and lounge performances. But Marissa Sanchez also wants the audience to see the serious side of her, as a singer.

In fact, Marissa says she is determined to make people aware of how serious a performer she is this year.

"I want them to realize that there's more to me than my jokes," she says. "I have talent. They should take me seriously. It depresses me whenever I feel people appreciate my jokes more than my music."

Marissa first gained an audience at Hyatt Regency's Calesa Bar, where she delighted the crowd with her singing, spiced up with her antics.

From her weekly puesto schedules, the singer-comedienne made it to TV, the movies and the live concert scene.

This year, Marissa hopes to come out with an album that contains serious songs, unlike the ones in her debut musical outing, "Magbati na Tayo," which boasts of novelty ditties released by Viva Records in 2001. Selections in her first album have suggestive titles like "Fax Me," "Labi Mo" and "Dahan-Dahanin Mo."

"I think I can handle more serious songs now," Marrisa asserts.

She looks up to performers Janno Gibbs and Ogie Alcasid when it comes to combining comedy and good music.

"Janno and Ogie can easily make their audiences laugh during their performances, but when they sing, they're serious," she observes.

Marissa finally gets to show people her serious side as a singer, but not without her trademark self-deprecating jokes in a Valentine show titled "DivaStating," tonight at the ballroom of Hotel Inter-Continental.

Marissa will poke fun at being a so-called diva as she switches "identities" from being Kuh Ledesma to Zsa Zsa Padilla, from Barbra Streisand to Shirley Bassey.

This year, Marissa is also dead set on trimming down her weight from 330 to 160 pounds. She was diagnosed with diabetes last year and was advised by her doctor go on a diet.

"My doctor said I really have to lose weight if I don't want my legs to be cut off," Marissa says.

She has lost 50 pounds since she first started her diet, with a low carbohydrates intake.

"My immediate goal is to reach 200 or 180 pounds," she says.

Admittedly, being overweight has caused Marissa too much anxiety before. She would often start a fight with Ian Nava, her boyfriend of two years, whenever she suspects that the latter is ogling at sexy girls. "Even if he's just watching them dance on TV, I really got so insecure and jealous of other women," Marissa says.

But Marissa is learning to love herself more and now feels more confident.

"*Siya na ang seloso ngayon*," she asserts.

She and Ian are seriously considering having a baby this year.

"We've been consulting our gynecologist as to how to achieve this goal," quips the comedienne.

Marissa says many people do not know how tough it is to work as a comedian. She says she has to project a happy face even if she feels miserable.

"Its hard enough to make Filipino viewers laugh. To try to cheer them up when you're depressed is even harder," Marissa laments.

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Vilma's dilemma

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

ACTRESS and Lipa City Mayor **Vilma Santos** is torn between show biz and politics.

The taping of her 40th anniversary special last Wednesday had to be postponed, following her dilemma about Republic Act 7160, which prohibits public officials from appearing on TV and doing movies.

"I was told the law has been existing for a long time now, but I only found out about it after the Manila Film Festival," discloses Vilma, who starred in **Chito Roño**'s period drama, "Dekada '70," one of the official filmfest entries.

"I am not familiar about the law, so I want to know its exact definition and clarify it first before I start working again. That's my dilemma now."

Vilma's TV special was scheduled to be aired on ABS-CBN this Sunday, but the telecast has been postponed indefinitely until Vilma can get the green light to work.

"I don't want to start anything only to be prohibited in the middle of my work," Vilma says. "Or worse, they might even file a case against me."

Vilma had a dialogue with the ABS-CBN executives, who signed her up for the TV special.

"I had to request them to postpone the airing until I can get a clear interpretation of that law," Vilma says. "Even if I make a movie, I want to be sure if it's possible and I will be allowed.

"But according to the Local Government code, a public official can take a leave of absence for three months, like what (Caloocan City Mayor) **Rey Malonzo** did, so he could do a movie. Kung talagang hindi puwede, I have no choice but to follow the law. Integrity is very important for me."

Vilma insists she doesn't agree with RA 7160, prohibiting showbiz stars-turned-politicians from doing TV or movie work.

"For me, there's no conflict of interest there," Vilma explains. "We can work on weekends or after our daily jobs in our public offices."

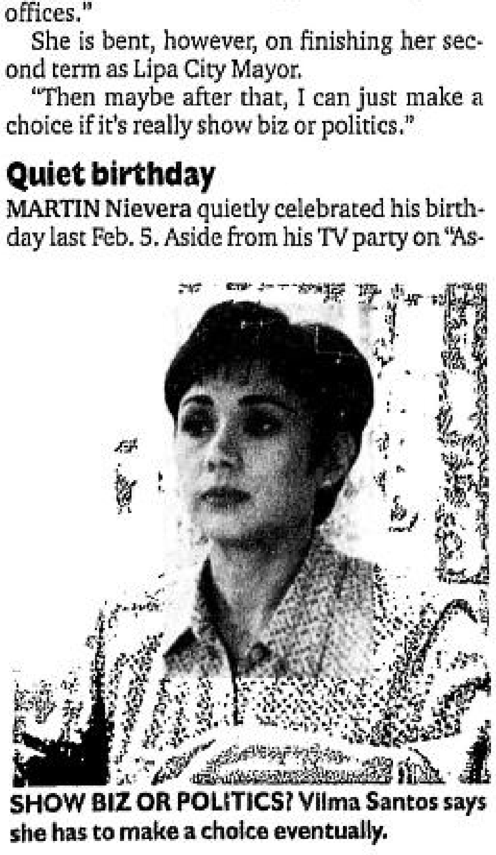
She is bent, however, on finishing her second term as Lipa City Mayor.

"Then maybe after that, I can just make a choice if it's really show biz or politics."

Quiet birthday

MARTIN Nievera quietly celebrated his birthday last Feb. 5. Aside from his TV party on "Asap," Martin didn't have any other celebration.

"I didn't want to party because my life is too loud as it is," Martin said. "I just had dinner with my family, with all my favorites—turkey, chicken curry, mechado and panga. Yummy."



SHOW BIZ OR POLITICS? Vilma Santos says she has to make a choice eventually.

Raves for Anna

THE LAUNCHING concert of **Anna Fegi**, "This is the Moment," held last month at Hard Rock Café in Makati, elicited more than the usual congratulatory messages from those who watched the show.

Presented as a personal journey of a singer who dauntlessly pursued her dream to make it big in Manila, the concert gave the true picture of the passion and dedication embodied within the diminutive performer.

The vision of **Ayi Magpayo**, events organizer and director for corporate functions who discovered Ana in Cebu more than four years ago, knew then that the singer had what it takes to make it big. Ayi gave Ana his business card should she decide to relocate in Manila, which she later did.

At Hard Rock, Ayi saw Ana perform live for the first time. After the show, he sent Anna's manager, **Bibsy Carballo**, a congratulatory text message which reads: "The raw talent has transformed magnificently into world-class performer. Her confidence is mixed with her down-to-earth 'realness' and that is what will ensure her climb to the top of her field. Tell her I'm very proud to have been part of her career."

Long-time New York resident **Dolores Marquez Lichfield** also sent an e-mail to her cousin after watching Anna's show.

"This was Anna Fegi's big launch and from this appearance, I would say she's an up-and-coming star on the musical firmament, Bibsy's baby. Watch for her. She's got sensational vocal and people vibes. She is also beautiful.

"She has **Whitney Houston**'s vocal equipment and wild and wonder hair which she used to great advantage by dyeing it a rusty red.

"With all that gorgeous hair, sexy little body, fantastic voice range and power, acting and dancing abilities, she will go far. She's differentiating herself more now. Bibsy has groomed a class act for Manila."

Lichfield also noted Anna's "sexy and charming" guest artists who included classical tenor **Ramon Acoymo** from New York, with whom Anna sang duets.

Hard Rock general manager **Proceso Calison** observed that among the current crop of new performers, "*Si Anna ang pinakamagaling!*"

A little over a thousand people cramped Hard Rock that night for Anna's concert. Calison disclosed the attendance was comparable to the sold-out shows of **Gary Valenciano**, **Martin Nievera**, **Regine Velasquez**, Freestyle and Side A also at Hard Rock.

For Valentine's Day, Anna has opted to do a

VILMA'S/ A31

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City Lite 88.3 takes you on a romantic walk in the park this Valentine's with a concert at Greenbelt 3 Park. Swing and swoon under the stars with jazz songbird Lynn Sherman as she sings some of our favorite standards from Cole Porter to Irving Berlin to the Gershwins in "Romancin' the City" . It's going to be just like New York's Central Park- the greens and the stars and the music. Come join us on February 14 at 8 in the evening. "Romnancin' the City" only from your smooth jazz radio City Lite 88.3!

Crossover presents Verni Varga and The CompanY

ON Feb. 20 at 8 p.m., "Crossover Presents" Verni Varga and The CompanY at Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental.

Joining them onstage are Mel Villena, Cesar Aguas, Bobby Taylo, Roy Mercado and The Opera, with Gerard Salonga as musical director.

Instrumental group Da Capo performs before the show that also highlights the launch of the "The Best of Crossover Presents" CD.

For inquiries, call Crossover office at 712-9755 or 712-9764, Ticket World at 891-5610 or Mandarin Oriental at 750-8888.

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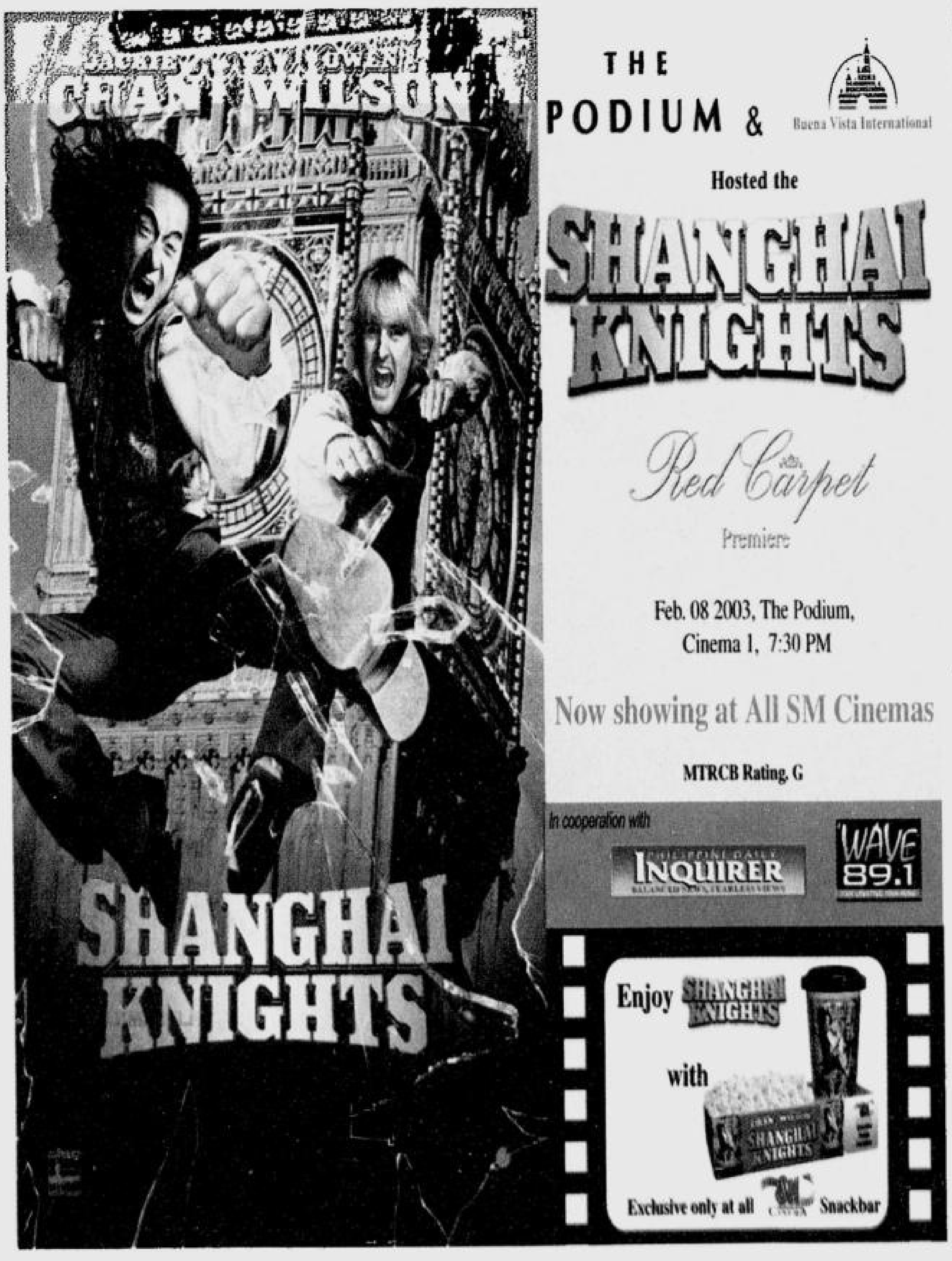
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Sex and sensibility

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AS BOLD films go, "Sukdulan" is a notch above the teeming tawdy throng, with good production values and a script that bothers to flesh out its characters and provide some surprises in terms of plotting.

The movie is also boosted by the sensible and felt performance of some members of its cast, notably **Daria Ramirez** as the male protagonist's mother.

We like the story's believable, "ordinary" characters—**Katya Santos** is a toll collector and **Raymond Bagatsing** is a blue-collar worker. The protagonists' "ordinariness" situates their story in the here and now, and makes it easier for the audience to relate to their concerns.

It turns out that the movie's main problem is Katya's dissatisfaction with her husband's (Raymond) sexual dysfunction. He requires the "visual aid" of a porno movie tape playing while they make love for him to sustain an erection and achieve climax.

At first, Katya's character doesn't even know she's dissatisfied. But, when she is seduced by a younger and more virile stranger (**Carlo Maceda**), she belatedly realizes what she's been missing all this time.

His expert and urgent lovemaking arouses not just her passion, but also her heretofore unacknowledged desire to engage in sexual experimentation and potentially dangerous risk-taking and brinkmanship.

This includes making furtive love to Carlo while her husband is nearby. After a number of such risky encounters that tempt the fates to do their worst, it's a wonder that the brazen lovers aren't found out.

But the film does have a tragic denouement, due to Carlo's cavalier treatment of his latest conquest. As Katya falls increasingly in love with him, he gets correspondingly bored with her.

Eventually, he dumps her—but not before he puts one of their lovemaking bouts on tape. This real-life triple-X tape plays a big role in the movie's tragic ending.

Daria Ramirez may have only a supporting role in this film, but her character serves a key cautionary function. It turns out that, decades ago, she too was unfaithful to her husband, which is why Raymond acts so resentfully towards her.

The fact that she's blind further underscores the protagonists' tragedy: they keep stumbling around in the dark, motivated only by lust and unable to learn from past experience, so they are fated to make the same mistakes all over again.

Like we've said, this movie offers more than the usual cheap sex flick does. But it still fails to come into its own as an absorbing viewing experience because it's so self-obsessed.

'Kapamilya' tour

TODAY, ABS-CBN gives mallrats a special Valentine's Day gift- personal appearance by the stars of its popular *teleseryes*:

At SM North Edsa, the cast of "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggang." At SM Bicutan, the cast of "Kay Tagal Kitang Hinintay." And **Nora Aunor** and the other satrs of "Bituin" at SM Fairview.

All mall shows begin at 4 p.m. At 5 p.m., the Hunks will perform live at SM Megamall's Megastrip in another free show.

Cannes filmfest selections

CINEFONDATION, the official selection of the Cannes Film Festival, is inviting Philippine participation in the 59th edition of the famous filmfest, which will be held this year from May 14 to 25.

The festival aims to focus attention on works of quality to contribute to the progress of cinema worldwide. Deadline for the submission of entries and registration forms is on March 3. Call the Film Development Council of the Philippines at 832-8052 to 54 for details.

Of special interest to young filmmakers: There is also a Cannes Festival Residence for them which provides accommodation and support if they have directed short films or a first feature film, or are working on feature film projects.

There are two sessions for this year's festival and six directors will be selected for each session. The deadline for submission of entries for the first session (scheduled on Oct. 1, 2003 - Feb. 11, 2004) is April 1. For the second session (scheduled on Feb. 27, 2004 - July 10, 2004) deadline is on Oct. 7, 2003.

Valentine shows

"LOVE X 2" with Side A and Freestyle on Feb. 14 at Araneta Coliseum.

The Rockin Revival Band at 6 p.m. on Feb. 14 at Hotel Inter-Continental Manila's poolside.

The Angfourgettables (**Pinky Marquez**, **Bimbo Cerrudo**, **Isay Alvarez** and **Dyords Javier**) on Feb. 14 at The Venue in Davao City.

The Company and **Dessa** on Feb. 14 at Hotel Rembrandt.

Boy, Tintin, lovers, prisoners, 'Etc'

"ETC," the ABS-CBN afternoon current affairs program hosted by king of talk TV Boy Abunda and Christine Bersola, continues to live up to its name as a show about "others, and the like," about "additional things or persons," and "extras."

"Etc" has been changed from five times a week to three times a week, but it continues to wield a tight grip on its followers, thanks mainly to the reputation of Boy and Tintin as hosts with both credibility and brains.

Both Boy and Tintin go where the stories are to give themselves a first-hand grasp of the people, places and situations they cover.

Last Monday, for instance, as part of the the show's week-long Valentine celebration, "Etc" featured "Pag-ibig sa Likod ng Rehas (Love Behind Bars)," the story of husband-and-wife Marlon and Ana Ramirez. Marlon has been in jail for about a year now for a drug case. Ana says his imprisonment has made her love for him even stronger. She visits him in jail every single day.

Last Wednesday, in "Wagas na Pag-ibig (True Love)," former beauty queen Sheila Mae Santarin is in a coma, a virtual vegetable, following a medical procedure. But her husband, Vice Mayor Manuel Maliksi of Imus, Cavite, vows to stay by her side, keeping his wedding promise that they will be together in sickness and in health, till death do them part.

CREDIBILITY AND BRAINS. "Etc." hosts Boy Abunda and Tintin Bersola with Marlon Ramirez.

Today, "Etc" features sisters Nanay Huling and Nanay Karing sharing the same man in "Two Sisters and a Husband." The siblings say the extraordinary arrangement is a sacrifice they had to make for the sake of love.

Boy continues to probe the "Etc" subjects with his cutting-edge wit, while Tintin brings the sweetness and the soft touch, no matter what the season may be.

Jenine goes back to her first love

SINGING AND ACTING. Jenine Desiderio is not about to ignore her roots.

JENINE Desiderio has become one of the most bankable female leads in the local movie industry these days. From short supporting roles in such flicks as "Death Row" and the more recent Metro Manila Film Festival entries "Hula Mo, Huli Ko" and "Mano Po," she moved on to bigger and meatier in FLT Film's "Mamasan," "Bangkero" and the forthcoming "Primera Klase."

Despite her immersion in the bold genre, Jenine shrugs off the vampish image as just part and parcel of her craft.

"It's all for show really," she asserts.

What the public doesn't realize is that underneath her coquettish demeanor lies the heart, soul and voice of a world-class performer—the same inimitable talent that shone brightly during her early years as part of the original cast of "Miss Saigon" in London, as well as her more recent theater forays, including the well-acclaimed "Fire Water Woman."

"Singing is really my first love," claims the buxom songstress, who is now currently compiling new material for her second album. "And I've been fortunate to have been blessed with opportunities to showcase this facet of mine."

To this day, keen OPM fans remember Jenine's biggest hit from 1999, "Darna," a catchy Tagalog version of the equally popular feminist anthem, "Superwoman."

"Although I've managed to reinvent myself as an actress, I'm not about to ignore my roots and neglect my singing talent," Jenine avers. "After all, that is where my heart really is."

Jenine teams up with versatile balladeer Chad Borja in "Lovestruck on the Island," tonight at Island Cove, Cavite.

Jenine will also be at the Celebrity Sports Plaza on Feb. 15 with the Tux, in a show dubbed, "My Celebrity Valentine."

Jimmy Bondoc to sing at Tapika tonight

AS EARLY as when he was still studying at the Ateneo University, Jimmy Bondoc was already acting in school plays and thinking that this, acting, would be his career in the future. He never joined the glee club because he thought he wasn't cut out for singing.

Yet, after college, he found himself part of a band and he was eventually signed up by Star Records which wanted to make him a pop star.

We tried interviewing Jimmy recently, but the 27-year-old singer did not want to talk about himself. Still, we tried to find out as much as we could about him.

A few years back, Jimmy had a first album which he admitted he was very happy about. But for the next album he wanted more in terms of the sound of his band, Essence, with which he regularly performed. He said he was also happy with the way it was produced by Andrei Dionisio.

Jimmy created a bit of a stir in the entertainment scene when he first joined it. Maybe his record label saw him as the next solo star from a band or a boy band.

Jimmy does have the looks and the chops for it. The next Justin Timberlake.

He did not really drop out of the music scene, but continued to play with his band. Today he's more into the music of Sting, Kenny Loggins and John Mayer. And he proudly talks about a new single, "Let Me Be the One," released by an independent label, NA Records.

Ever since the song's debut on radio, Jimmy said, he has been inspired to go back to the live scene singing acoustic songs. He names Gary Valenciano's ballads and the APO songs as influences on his own music.

On Feb. 14, Jimmy will have a Valentine's show at the Tapika restaurant/bar on Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City, together with the duo Dominic and Burton. It will be acoustic music all through the night.

Jimmy still manages his band as well as a few singers. He will be producing his own solo concert in March at the Music Museum. But his current concern is his music, the songs he has been composing.

Jimmy can shift from one music genre to another.

Tapika was packed with mostly teeners the night we heard him sing. The place should also be packed when he performs again tonight.

Fred L. Samantela, Contributor

POP STAR. Jimmy Bondoc goes all acoustic tonight

Romance specials at San Mig

SAN MIG Pub and Restaurant celebrates Valentine's Day with romantic shows and a special menu in Alabang and in El Pueblo, Ortigas.

San Mig Alabang, on the 2nd level of Corte de las Palmas at the Alabang Town Center, raises a toast to the red-letter day with a romantic trio serenading guests starting 7 p.m.

Feb. 15 will be for the younger set as DJ Ayee provides the music starting 10 p.m.

Sponsors are Johnnie Walker, San Miguel Beer and Santa Helena Chilean Fine Wines.

At Ortigas, tenor Nolyn Cabahug will enchant guests with his rendition of the greatest love songs of all time in "Love is in the Air," 9:30 tonight.

Nolyn who will render a repertoire of love songs, will have his musical director Sabrina, accompany him in the show.

A sumptuous six-course meal has been prepared for guests. Show starts 9:30 p.m.

For details and reservation, call San Mig Alabang at 842-0776 or 807-3595, San Mig Ortigas at 632-7144 or 637-5499.

"**BRILLIANT** composer"

"**IMPORTANT** singing star"

PHOTOS BY ROGER MARGALLO

Regine sings paeans . . .

From page A32

which take me years to finish."

"Writing 'Windmills of Your Mind' took me 36 years, six months, two and half weeks, three hours and 20 minutes," he said.

But he also said he did the musical score for "Summer of '42" in only two and a half days.

"Because that film only had seven minutes of music," he explained. "But 'Three Musketeers' required more than an hour of music and it was just not possible to do that in three days."

Hits and standards

He believes that most of his songs have become standards and not simply hits. "A hit is a song that you write and, after one record, it stays in the charts for six months and disappears. A standard is a song that takes 10 years to be known, 15 more years to be spread out in the world, but it stays for many decades."

He chose to do Valentine concerts in Manila although Valentine's Day is "a day like any other day," but it is also a day to write good music.

"The only thing I wanted to do in life was music," he said. "When I was young, I was home alone all day because my poor mother had to work. Fortunately, there was an old piano and that became my only friend. I'd play all day long, out of boredom. I'd listen to a melody on the radio and try to find the chords. Because music came very quickly to me, I felt it was my world."

"FANTASTIC VOICE." Anna Fegi in a free Valentine's concert.

Vilma's . . .

From page A29

free concert, "Festive Episodes," Feb. 14, 7 p.m. at Chef's Avenue, Level 3 of Festival Mall in Alabang.

Also featured in the free show mounted by Festival Mall and Nestlé are the youthful Legato Strings and **Naldy Rodriguez** on keyboards.

The Legato Strings joined Anna onstage at Hard Rock and they proved to be an explosive combination. They also performed together in the "Symphony of Summer" concert in Boracay last summer, the two-night "Voices" concert at Phil-Am Life Theater and in "A Christmas Zong" at The Fort last December.

BOYZ II MEN ARRIVAL
Leading R&B group Boyz II Men arrived Wednesday night at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, following a successful concert series in Japan. The trio of (from left) Wanya Morris, Shawn Stockman and Nathan Morris is best known for their powerful hit ballads like "I'll Make Love To You," "End of the Road," "One Sweet Day," "Four Seasons of Loneliness" and their latest hit single, "The Color of Love." Boyz II Men will perform in a concert tonight at The Fort open field. ROGER MARGALLO

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'til the vamp lady sings.

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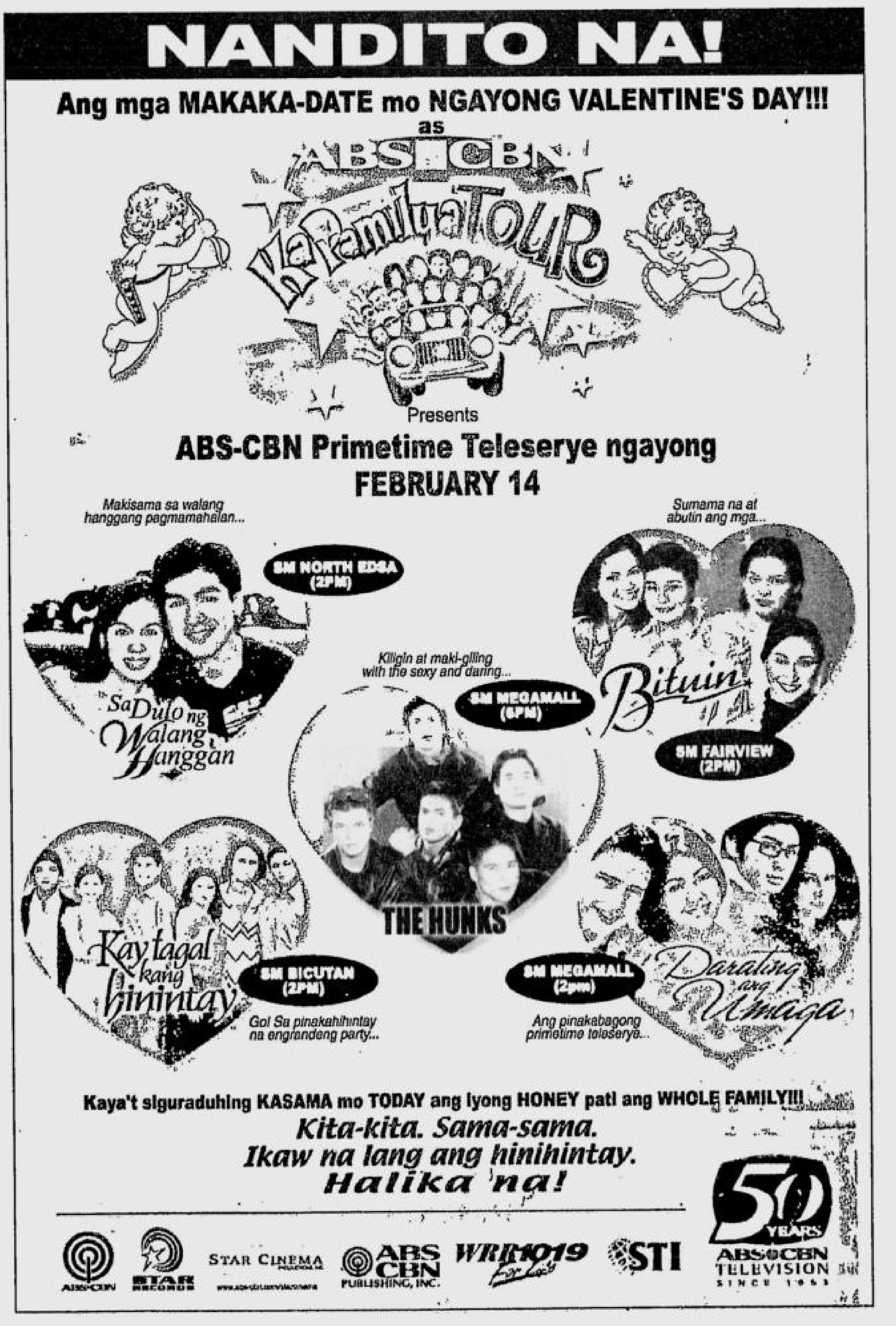

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HUMMING BIRD. Michel Legrand, whose songs she will sing in a new album, is funny and fatherly, says Regine. ROGER MARGALLO

Regine sings paeans to Michel Legrand

By Leah Salterio

MICHEL Legrand is "one of the most brilliant composers the world has produced," as far as Regine Velasquez is concerned.

Regine, as far as the world-famous pianist and composer is concerned, is "my new friend, my new star, my new bird."

The new friend from the Philippines first met the brilliant composer in February 2002, after his Valentine concert with Kuh Ledesma at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC). That meeting led to a P15-million album contract, sealed when Regine visited Legrand in his sprawling residence in the outskirts of Paris in May 2002.

Legrand is a very nice man, Regine recalls, nine months after the Paris visit.

"He's funny," she starts to gush. "He's like a *lolo. Napaka*-fatherly. The time we had together in Paris was perhaps the most exciting two days of my entire career. He's a joy to work with.

"He's got like four million songs that he had to choose from for my album. It was pretty hard to pick the songs, but he knows what I can do and what I cannot do. He knows my style, my range, the songs that fit me. He was pretty much calling the shots, but I'm flattered because he would always ask me if I was happy with his choice. He would always consider how I feel about a particular piece, so it was really great."

'She's unique'

Regine didn't mind that she had to audition before the illustrious songwriter, who was promptly impressed with her talent.

"She's my new friend, my new star, my new bird," Legrand said of Regine after that meeting.

He refused to compare Regine with any other performer. "We all have special qualities and even defects," he said as he started to build their mutual admiration club. "Regine is unique and I can't compare her with anyone else. She is very good. She has qualities that no one else has. There's no clone of Regine anywhere and there will never be.

"She deserves to be known everywhere in the world," Legrand continues to gush in his turn. "She will be an important (singing) star. That's true."

Before she starts recording the album of Legrand songs in Manila next year, Regine will share the stage with the composer for three nights in the Valentine concert "Songbird Sings Legrand," Feb. 14 to 16, at the PICC Plenary Hall.

"It's an honor to be with Michel and perform with him on stage," Regine says, now on first-name basis with Legrand. "The mere fact that he's worked with Barbra Streisand and all those other big artists already excites me. This concert is a huge thing for me. I will sing his songs and that alone is a great privilege. We will also do some songs together.

"Then there's the album, which he is going to produce, and that's another big thing to look forward to. What else can I hope for?"

Old and new

Regine confesses she had not known that one of her favorite songs, "On My Way To You," is a Legrand composition. "I thought that song was so beautiful and I wanted it to be sung at my wedding.

"Apparently, there were many other songs I didn't know he had also written, like Michael Jackson's 'Happy' and 'Something New in My Life.' I also love all the songs in 'Yentl' and 'What Are You Doing the Rest of Your Life."

According to Legrand, in the PICC concert, which is being produced by Maxi-Media International, Regine will sing a couple of new songs which will also be part of the album. The 15-track CD will also be produced by Maxi-Media as the initial offering of its Maxi-Records label. It will include some Legrand standards plus new songs with lyrics by the Oscar-winning team of Alan and Marilyn Bergman, who also wrote many of Streisand's hits such as the songs in "Yentl."

"We've been working together since 1968, when we did the score for 'The Thomas Crown Affair'," Legrand said of the Bergmans. "We wrote two songs for the movie—(Oscar Best Song) 'Windmills of Your Mind' and 'His Eyes, Her Eyes,' which I sang myself in the movie."

The album, Legrand said, will also include two songs previously recorded by Streisand but never commercially released—"Blue, Green, Gray and Gone" and "Once You Loved."

Legrand said his creative fire is usually ignited when he works alone and in silence. "I only use my 10 fingers on the piano to excite me, put me in a certain mood and find a sense of style, rhythm and harmony.

"There are times when I would have nightmares that what I am writing is the best thing I have ever written. But when I wake up the next morning and I look at the paper, it's a piece of nothing."

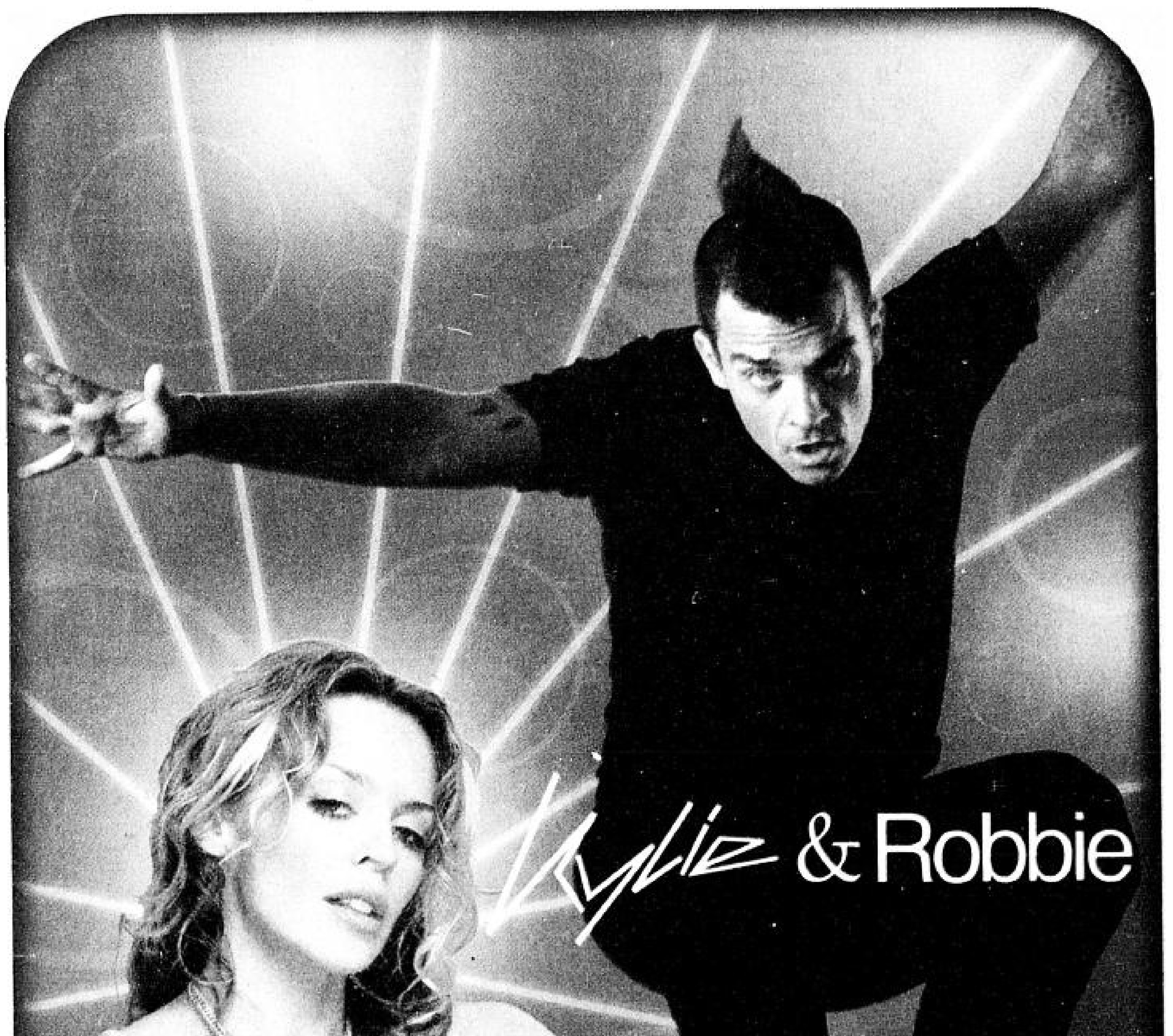
Happy and sad

Ironically, Legrand said he doesn't need to be inspired to create beautiful music. "That's what most composers need. To me, that's bulls--t. I wrote the happiest music when my life was tragic. I wrote the saddest music during the happiest moments in my life. What happens to you outside of yourself shouldn't have anything to do with your writing. Sometimes, I really don't know where it comes from."

For him, creating music is both hard and easy. "There's music which takes me only 20 minutes to write and there are some pieces

REGINE/ A31

Simply a double feature



Kylie & Robbie

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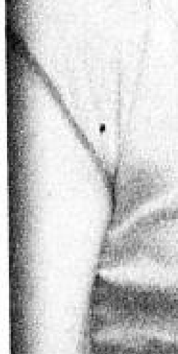

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OFW remittances hit all-time high of $7B

By Clarissa S. Batino

DOLLARS sent by 8 million nurses, IT professionals, engineers, domestic helpers and other Filipinos working abroad reached an all-time high of $7 billion in 2002, up 16.6 percent against $6 billion the previous year but lower than the original target of $8 billion.

The figure was still preliminary as the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas was still awaiting the reports of smaller banks.

This year, the central bank expects remittances to grow by 20 percent to about $8.4 billion.

The central bank had been counting on dollar remittances to help buoy the peso as the inflows would provide dollars in the spot market and help correct the supply crunch caused by some panic buying among companies, mostly importers trying to build up their inventory of oil.

The peso yesterday closed at 53.95 from 53.935 last Wednesday.

Despite the substantial dollars wired by Filipino workers to their families, the peso had remained volatile since the start of the second half of 2002 due to uncertainties about the government's budget deficit as well as the rising tension in the Middle East.

"Maybe it won't hit $8 billion but it would still be substantial at about $7 billion," said BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

The BSP governor blamed the misreporting that happened in the first half for the central bank's bullish expectations on remittances.

The central bank had discovered that a big commercial bank overstated its dollar remittances report in the first seven months of the year, leading to a much higher foreign exchange inflow from overseas Filipino workers for the period.

Sources said the overstated amount could go anywhere from $300 million to $500 million and was the reason why a substantial uptick in remittances was recorded during the first half.

Those engaged heavily in remittances are Philippine National Bank, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. and Equitable PCI Bank. Nine other lenders are trying to get a share of the growing market.

"We are experiencing strong growth in remittances from our overseas workers as more Filipinos find better employment that would give them better pay," Buenaventura said.

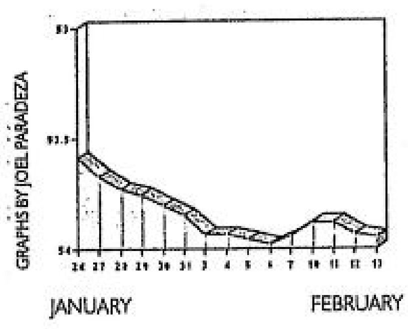
He cautioned, however, that the robust growth would be hard to sustain if Congress would not amend the Anti-Money Laundering Act to prevent the members of the Financial Action Task Force to impose economic sanctions that would adversely affect the flow of OFW remittances.

Of the total remittances, about 80 percent came from the United States because even the funds coming from the Middle East (where more than a million Filipinos are employed) pass

OFW/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P53.95 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 13, 2003

¥120.76 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 13, 2003

GOLD: $354.00-355.00

per ounce Hong Kong, Feb.13, 2003

Feb. 13, 2003

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	0.933010	1.000000	53.899000
Japan	Yen	0.007693	0.008245	0.444400
United Kingdom	Pound	1.508677	1.617000	87.154700
Hongkong	Dollar	0.119629	0.128218	6.910800
Switzerland	Franc	0.680681	0.729554	39.322200
Canada	Dollar	0.610090	0.653894	35.244200
Singapore	Dollar	0.530632	0.568731	30.654000
Australia	Dollar	0.551131	0.590702	31.838200
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.478180	2.656113	143.161800
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.248823	0.266688	14.374200
Brunei	Dollar	0.529127	0.567118	30.567100
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000104	0.000112	0.006000
Thailand	Baht	0.021703	0.023261	1.253700
UAE	Dirham	0.254046	0.272287	14.676000
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.071800	57.768900
Argentina	Peso	0.302925	0.324675	17.499700
Brazil	REAL	0.259313	0.277932	14.980300
Denmark	Kroner	0.134523	0.144182	7.771300
India	Rupee	0.019511	0.020912	1.127100
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.245562	0.263193	14.185800
Mexico	New Peso	0.085269	0.091391	4.925900
New Zealand	Dollar	0.513151	0.549995	29.644200
Norway	Kroner	0.133795	0.143402	7.729200
Pakistan	Rupee	0.016170	0.017331	0.934100
South Africa	Rand	0.111972	0.120012	6.468500
Korea	Won	0.000778	0.000834	0.045000
Sweden	Kroner	0.109406	0.117261	6.320300
Syria	Pound	0.022215	0.023810	1.283300
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026957	0.028893	1.557300
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000486	0.000521	0.028100

STOCK MARKET

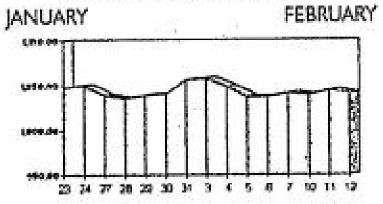
Stocks end lower on war jitters

SHARES edged lower again yesterday as continued anxiety over Iraq kept many investors sidelined, traders said.

They added, however, that some buying interest in PLDT, one of the heaviest capitalized

STOCKS/ B2

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Camacho clarifies AUV tax move

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho has slammed automotive assemblers for erroneously interpreting the decision of the Bureau of Internal Revenue to defer the implementation of the tighter regulation on 10-seater vehicles to March 31 instead of Feb. 16.

"The agreed date was March 31 and not May 31. But even if we defer the implementation to March 31, the BIR would still consider existing inventory as of Feb. 16," the finance chief said.

The BIR defines existing inventory as units already in the Philippines, whether in the Bureau of Customs, assembly plants, or showrooms as of Feb. 16.

"Therefore, any sale on or before March 31 or even beyond

CAMACHO/ B2

Baguio's latest moneymaking machine is cell card networking

By Jette Dumpayan
Contributor

(First of two parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

BAGUIO CITY—As early as 4 a.m. daily, about 50 people line up a busy side street in downtown Baguio for this city's latest "money-making machine."

They are members of a marketing company that promises them a weekly return of investments in the form of prepaid cellular phone cards or cash.

The company employs a scheme that has turned a P10,500 investment into a P1.2-million venture in just five weeks.

Another pyramid scam? The members do not think so, but

BAGUIO'S/ B7

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Ayala gets SEC nod to issue P1B worth of preferred shares

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission yesterday approved the registration of P1 billion worth of 200 million preferred "A" shares of Ayala Corp.

Ayala Corp., the holding company of Ayala Group of Companies, said in its application to the SEC that the additional shares to be offered for sale would be used to raise additional working capital.

It expects net proceeds of P984 million from the issue. The company said that should the offering fail to reach the expected net proceeds, it would tap the services of credit facilities like banks.

The company originally applied for the registration of 400 million preferred shares worth P2 billion, but the SEC approved only half of its application.

The approved preferred shares will be priced at P5 each. The shares shall be considered non-participating, non-voting and non-convertible.

Citicorp Capital Philippines Inc. (CCPI) will act as the issue manager of the newly registered preferred shares, while joint lead underwriters will be BDO Capital Investment Corp. and PCI Capital Corp.

Ayala Corp. has five subsidiaries—Ayala Land Inc., Bank of the Philippine Islands, Globe Telecom, Ayala International Pte. Ltd. and Ayala International holdings Ltd.—focusing on different sectors, including real estate and hotels, financial services, telecommunications and international operations.

Contributing much to its profitability has been Globe Telecom, which is enjoying a continued boom in cellular telephony.

Before the SEC approved the new preferred shares of Ayala, the company had 4 billion authorized preferred "A" shares, one billion of which were issued.

Michelle Remo

San Miguel posts 2.8% rise in 2002 net profit to ₱6.6B

By Michelle V. Remo

FOOD and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. (SMC) posted a net income of P6.63 billion in 2002, up 2.8 percent from the previous year's P6.45 billion.

In a statement, the company said its consolidated net income before restructuring cost was at P7.2 billion, or 40 percent higher from end-2001 figure. Restructuring cost, which included retirement and other benefits, amounted to P837 million.

SMC, which is 15-percent owned by Kirin Brewery of Japan, said that the increase in its net income was attributed to the strong performance of its acquisitions and restructuring programs, including the development of its sales and marketing, as well as its distribution capabilities.

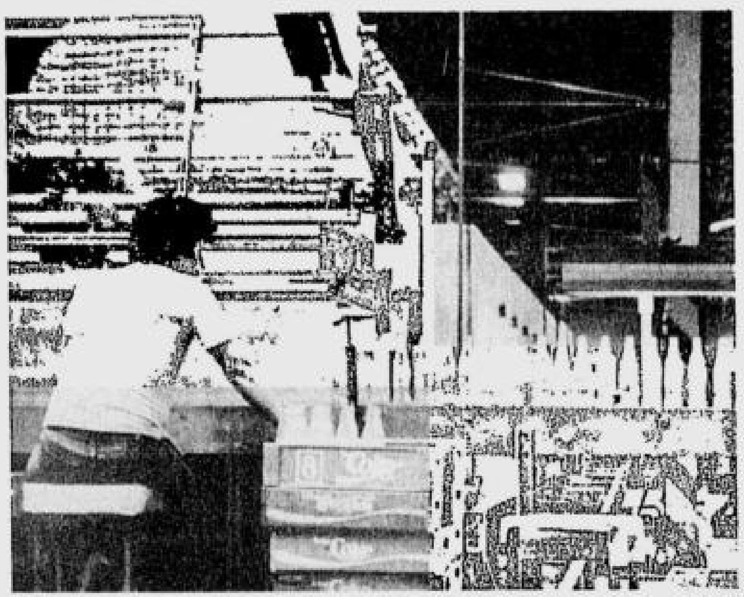
SMC's consolidated revenue increased by 12 percent from its 2001 figure to P136 billion. The increase was primarily brought by the growth in its beverage business, which expanded by 15 percent, its food group (18 percent), and packaging (13 percent).

One acquisition that contributed much to SMC's earnings was that of Coca Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. in 2001. The acquisition gave SMC the highest market share in the soft drink industry at 90 percent.

Meanwhile, the company also disclosed that it was undertaking a nationwide corporate social responsibility program this year that is expected to help boost the country's agriculture sector and generate billions of pesos in national revenue.

The program is focused on developing productivity in the countryside and at the same time provide livelihood opportunities for people in different rural communities across the country.

Under the program, SMC targets to enhance at leat a million hectares of farmlands to benefit farmers of products like corn, cassava and soybeans, as well as hog raisers, and those engaged in fisheries and aquaculture.



BOOMING softdrink operations

The program also tasks SMC to get its supply of raw materials from processors of farmers' produce to help generate jobs. The program would also tap the services of barge operators, shippers and truckers from the countryside to transport raw materials to various SMC plants and facilities.

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Stocks end lower on war jitters

From page B1

approved amendments to the anti-money laundering law, albeit in a form that fell short of what a global dirty-money watchdog was looking for.

"The likelihood of a newly amended anti-money laundering law has been overshadowed by external factors," Rodrigo said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to put her signature to the changes after approval by both houses of Congress later yesterday.

Traders noted some investors may be positioning in PLDT ahead of expected strong 2002 earnings due to be announced later this month.

Offsetting the upside, recent gainer Globe Telecom came under some profit taking pressure, falling P10 to P530.

With investors awaiting Blix's testimony to the United Nations, Rodrigo expected prices to remain narrowly rangebound today.

"I expect the market to remain mixed with a slight downward bias," he said. *Reuters*

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Camacho ...

From page B1

this date of inventory as of Feb. 16 as defined in the regulation will still be subject to the old regulation. Any shipment beyond Feb. 16 shall be covered by (the) March 31 (implementation date)," Camacho said.

The finance chief explained in an interview that car assemblers, during a meeting last Monday, did not raise a howl on the issue of the inventory.

Camacho indicated that the finance department would be flexible if a law amending the excise taxation on automobiles was to be passed before it adjourns on March 31.

He hinted that the DOF may scrap the new regulation altogether if the legislation was already in place by March 31.

"The DOF maintains the position that pending the passage of the proposed legislation, it is necessary to correct the flaws which has led to the abuse and departure from the spirit of the excise tax of the National Internal Revenue Code," Camacho said.

He said the old regulation led to a 6-percent drop in the excise tax collection of the BIR even as vehicle sales rose 12 percent in 2002.

Camacho said he was convinced that pushing ahead with the regulation would compel the automotive industry to rally behind the immediate passage of the proposed amendments to excise taxation.

From an excise tax schedule of 15, 35, 50 and 100 percent for automobiles not covered by the exemption, the new tax rates of 3, 15, 30 and 50 percent would be based on the price instead of engine displacement and fuel type.

Under the proposed set-up, vehicles worth 500,000 and below would be taxed 3 percent, those worth 500,000 to P1 million would be slapped 15 percent. A 30-percent rate would be charged on those worth up to P2 million and vehicles worth P2 million and above would have to pay a 50-percent tax. The exemption of Asian Utility Vehicles would be lifted.

OFW remittances ...

From page B1

through correspondent banks in the United States before they are wired to Manila.

Buenaventura said that more Filipinos were getting hired for better-paying jobs. He said more and more leave for employment in the medical profession and in the IT sector although a substantial number still leave as domestic helpers and caregivers.

The central bank said that aside from the Middle East, the newly hired and re-hired Filipinos also trooped to Europe, the United States and other parts of Asia.

Foreign exchange inflows from overseas workers comprise nearly 85 percent of the country's gross earnings. It normally accounts for the usual half-a-percentage point difference between the gross domestic product and the gross national product.

Damaged goods

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

BANKER Vicente Panlilio has filed a P11.7-million damage suit as well as a criminal complaint against his former Far East Bank president, Octavio Victor "OV" Espiritu.

The twin suits were filed after countless mediation efforts from mutual friends failed to patch up relations between the two colleagues of more than three decades.

The civil complaint was filed in the Makati Regional Trial Court the other Thursday while the criminal complaint was lodged before the Prosecutor's Office in Nasugbu, Batangas.

Panlilio said he suffered a black eye and a broken nose, the latter needing corrective surgery, after he was unexpectedly socked by Espiritu when Panlilio dropped by unannounced at the Espiritu weekend home in Punta Fuego on Dec. 29, 2002.

Espiritu has chosen to keep quiet about the incident, but according to the pro-Espiritu grapevine, the ex-Far East Bank president felt the unexpected visitor, who came holding a glass of red wine, had threatened him right in front of his son.

(See Cocktales, January 10 and 13, 2003 for additional background.)

Worse than the shattered nose, the damaged friendship, or the sullied reputation is that the unfortunate incident has reportedly prompted Bangko Sentral Gov. Rafael Buenaventura to drop OV from the very short list of candidates Buenaventura would recommend to succeed him when his term expires in early 2005.

OV was right on top of that list and, according to the grapevine, Buenaventura was hoping the case would be settled amicably so as not to jeopardize OV's chances for the Bangko Sentral position.

In addition to OV, those considered as governor material from among the senior bankers are BPI president Xavier Loinaz, ex-Land Bank/Equitable Bank/Solidbank president Deogracias Vistan and International Exchange Bank president Ramon Sy

Strike 2 for KLM

FIRST, it was former Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo.

Now it turns out ex-Shell chair Cesar Buenaventura and his wife who already have a pending suit against KLM.

According to the grapevine, instead of allowing them to take their confirmed adjoining business class seats, the Dutch airline's Schiphol staff separated the Buenaventuras over heated protestations in favor of a European family of four during a recent European trip.

An unfortunate treatment, indeed, since Buenaventura was even used as a model for a local Northwest/KLM advertisement.

The case of Romulo, on the other hand, involved being rebuffed by the KLM Bangkok airport office to endorse his KLM-issued unrestricted, full fare, first class ticket to another airline.

Romulo was then forced to buy another first class ticket from Cathay Pacific to be able to catch up with his overseas commitments.

"Why our Bangkok Airport office failed to accede to the request is what we are looking into," wrote an apologetic Richard Olivier, KLM Southeast Asia manager.

Romulo has rejected a KLM offer to refund the unused portion of his ticket and has hired his brother's law firm to represent him in a contemplated damage suit.

Battle for Philippine seas

THE competition in the domestic shipping industry is heating up and has in fact spilled over to a battle of press releases and newspaper ads.

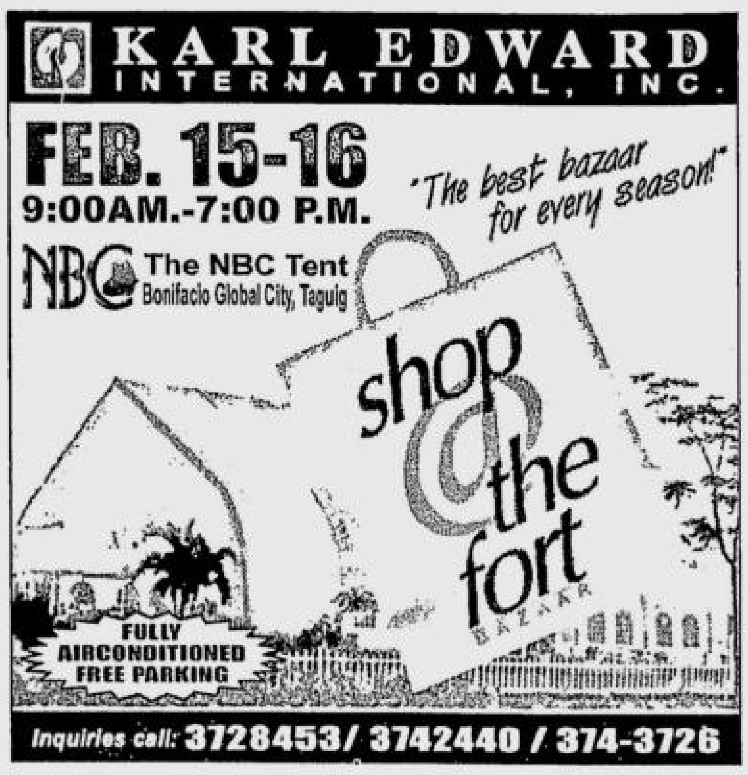
Negros Navigation, which claims it has turned around its years of losses to move up to the second slot, thinks market leader WG & A is behind the publicity attacks and is merely using a seaman's group as mouthpiece.

Heard through the grapevine

PHILIPPINE Airlines is shopping around for an accredited foreign partner that would handle maintenance operations, especially for its overseas fleet. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

PRULINK	PRU LIFE U.K.	
VARIABLE LIFE	Current Week February 11, 2003	Last Week February 4, 2003
Prulink Bond Fund	1.03930	1.04216
Prulink Managed Fund	1.01297	1.01542

* Note: PRULINK Funds were launched last September 18, 2002



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Banker sues over punching incident

By Elena R. Torrijos

PHILIPPINE National Bank director Vicente Panlilio is seeking P11.7 million in damages and other expenses from banker Octavio V. Espiritu for allegedly punching him in the face last December.

Panlilio sought the damages in a civil complaint he filed with the Makati City Regional Trial Court last Feb. 6.

The PNB director also filed on the same day a criminal complaint against Espiritu for serious physical injuries.

As a result of the punch received from Espiritu, Panlilio claimed he suffered bleeding in his left eye and a broken nose and had to undergo surgery to correct the fractures.

He alleged that his doctor asserted that risk of facial deformity remained if complications arose that could not be corrected by further surgery.

Panlilio and Espiritu worked together at the defunct Far East Bank and Trust Co. as president and executive vice president, respectively, prior to its absorption by Bank of the Philippine Islands.

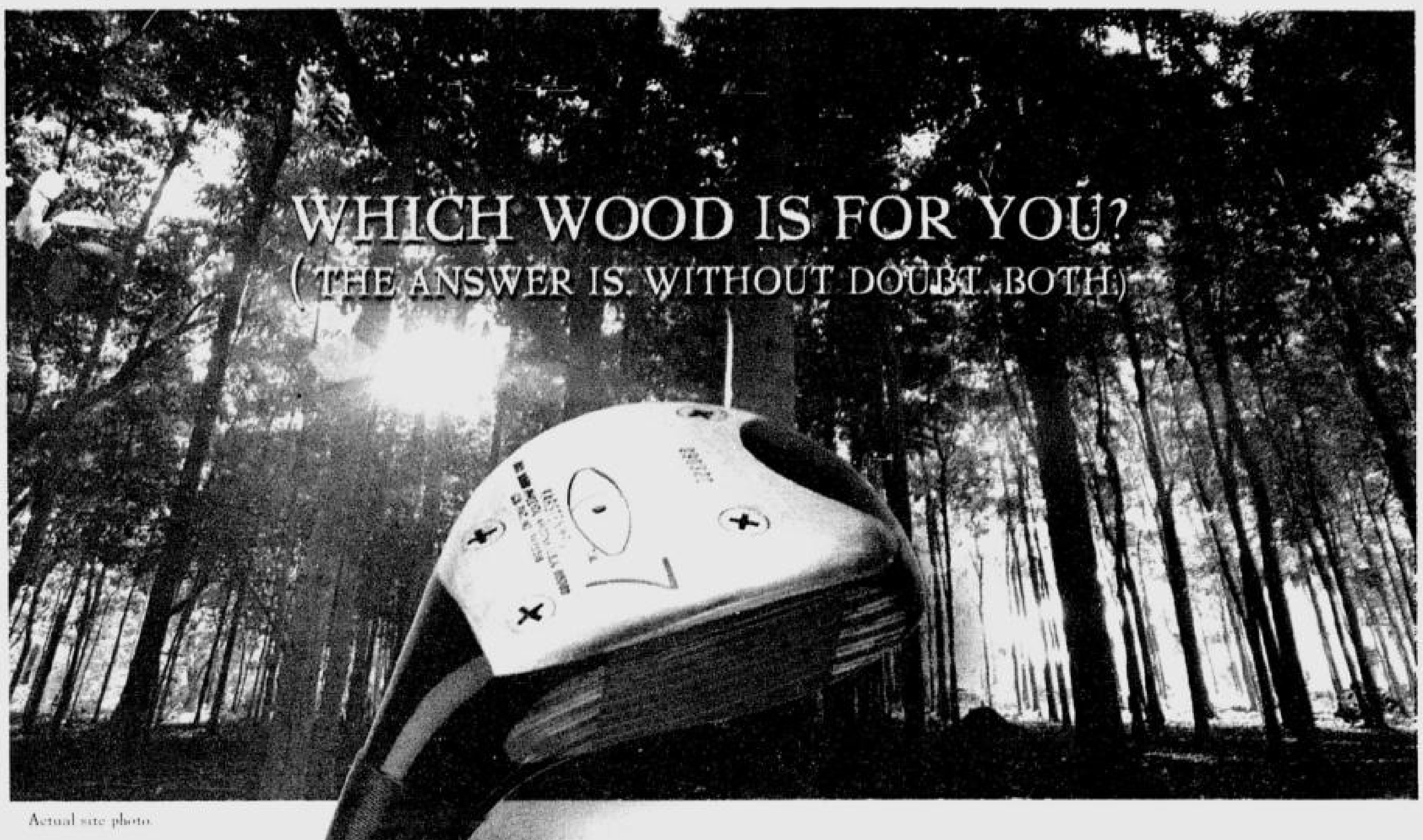
Recounting his ordeal, Panlilio said that in the evening of Dec. 29, 2002, while on holiday with his family in Punta Fuego, Nasugbu, Batangas, he passed by Espiritu's vacation home and saw the door was slightly ajar.

"Wanting to clear the air about what Mr. Espiritu had said to Mr. Emil de Quiros Jr. (a former colleague who reportedly heard Espiritu complain about Panlilio's badmouthing the former FEBTC president), I decided to visit Mr. Espiritu," he said.

Panlilio said a household help answered his knock on the door, asked who he was and after a few minutes invited him to enter the house.

"I greeted Mr. Espiritu, the latter's wife, son and daughter-in-law. Mr. Espiritu's wife, Marilen, invited me to sit at the dining table with them. Mr. Espiritu then offered me some wine, I accepted, and he then went to the kitchen. Mr. Espiritu returned to the dining room, and Mrs. Espiritu left. I immediately opened the conversation and told Mr. Espiritu: 'I was informed that you are mad at me for bad-mouthing you'."

Panlilio said that his shock, Espiritu answered: "Are you threatening me?" and then stood up and hit him on the left eye with his right fist while he was seated.



Actual site photo.

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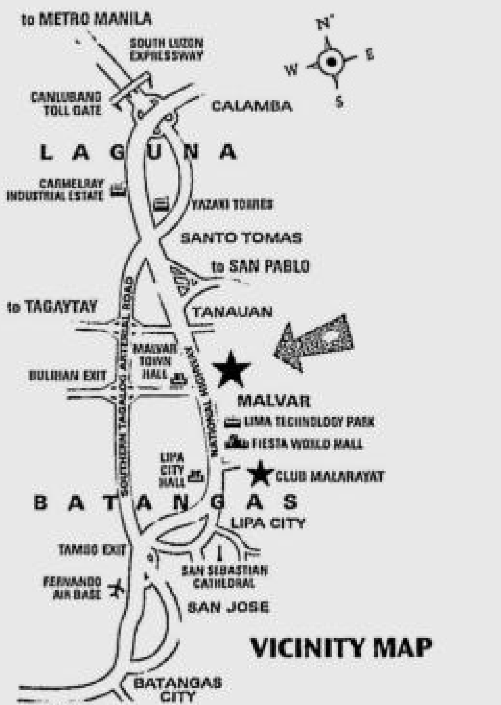

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Power, gas prices seen to rise further

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CONSUMER welfare advocate Raul Concepcion yesterday warned of a continuous climb in power and petroleum prices as he expressed alarm over public "anger and frustration on the lack of transparency" of utility firms regarding their pricing.

"The worst is yet to come on power rate increases," Concepcion said in an interview.

The industrialist added that it was important for power firms to explain the increases in power rates before the Energy Regulatory Commission acted on pending petitions for rate adjustments.

"The National Power Corp. and the Manila Electric Co. should tell us straightforward why their charges are increasing," he said. "Things should be simple enough for (the public) to understand."

Concepcion, who chairs the Consumer and Oil Price Watch (COPW), said he wanted to come out with monthly reports on the electricity price movements just as he does with oil prices.

He said irate electricity consumers have sent the COPW a deluge of text messages, e-mails and phone calls about rising prices.

"We used to get about three messages a day, but over the past three days we got more than a hundred."

Concepcion added that local oil firms were expected to effect a second round of price hikes this month of 47 centavos per liter of diesel and 31 centavos for gasoline.

He added that figures for the first half of February indicated further price increases in March.

Oil companies have been claiming that the rising cost of importing crude oil was to blame for the impending adjustments in pump prices of petroleum products.

Crude prices have been on an uptrend due to the combined impact of the impending war against Iraq and the protracted oil strike in Venezuela.

In a related development, the Abolish PPA Coalition (Appac) said on Jan. 30 that Meralco's purchased power adjustment (PPA) charge was increasing by 20 percent every month and that it would regain its highest level of P3.30 per kilowatt-hour in two months.

Appac convenor Alain Pascua lashed out at President Macapagal-Arroyo "for having deceived and lied to the people" when she claimed that she had lowered the cost of electricity since June last year.

"Consumers felt a temporary relief for only two months when the PPA rate went down to P2.28 per kwh in May 2002 and P1.81 per kwh the following month," Pascua said.

But since July of 2002, the PPA began a steady climb that Appac data showed would surpass the April 2002 level of P3.30 per kwh in two or three months.

LANDMARK CONFERENCE

President Fidel V. Ramos (second from right) expresses appreciation to Ambassador Jan de Kok, (right) head of the Delegation of the European Commission to the Philippines for gamely wearing a cap given by the former chief executive. The event was the concluding activity of the one-day seminar on EU-RP Partnership: Focusing on New Frontiers. It was a first in the Philippine history when a landmark conference to enhance a lucrative partnership between the European Union and the Philippines was held recently at the Shangri-la Hotel in Makati. It was a joint project of the Ramos Peace and Development Foundation, the Delegation of the European Commission, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Hans Seidel Foundation with support from the Bavarian Ministry for Economic Affairs, Transport and Technology and EEI Corp.. Also in photo is Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo (left).

RP, Iran eye oil supply storage deal

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE STATE-OWNED Philippine National Oil Co. yesterday said it had signed a memorandum of understanding wih the National Iranian Oil Co. (NIOC) to prepare for "mechanisms that would ensure continuous supply of crude oil, even during emergency situations."

Under the MOU, the two countries would look at the possible establishment of a joint storage facility in the Philippines for crude and refined oil from Iran.

PNOC said the proposed depot should be in a mutually acceptable site in terms of security and accessibility.

"We are giving ourselves six months to come up with the joint preliminary studies so we can have the appropriate formal agreements," said Thelmo Cunanan, PNOC president.

Cunanan added that PNOC and NIOC were open to forging firmer supply deals once the Iran-Philippines oil storage facility was in place.

He said the MOU was an offshoot of a mission to Iran last November, which House Speaker Jose de Venecia and Energy Secretary Vincent Perez led.

Last month, Cunanan also announced that PNOC had signed with the Iran Petrochemical Commercial Co. an MOU for possible joint projects in the local petrochemical industry.

He said PNOC and IPCC were expected to enter into specific agreements and formulate a working framework and timetable for such projects within the next six months.

Signed in the Iranian capital Tehran on Jan. 14, the petrochemical MOU provides that PNOC and IPCC would immediately study the Philippine petrochemical and plastics markets to assess their potentials.

PNOC's petrochemical arm is spearheading a project to build a $600-million naphtha cracker plant in Bataan, which is expected to lessen the country's dependence on imported raw materials for the plastics industry.

In an earlier interview, a source familiar with the matter said Malaysian oil giant Petroliam Nasional Bhd (Petronas) was firming up plans to hold a strategic stake in the proposed cracker.

Petronas was considering a stake that is bigger than the previously publicized 20 percent, the source said.

PNOC expects to shell out $100 million mostly from internally generated funds to secure a 34-percent equity in the cracker project.

The amount is based on a 50-50 debt-to-equity ratio, which Cunanan said the PNOC management preferred.

RP risks ratings downgrade due to war fears

By Clarissa S. Batino

FOREIGN rating firm Standard & Poor's has warned that heightened risks of the US-Iraq war may lead to a downgrade of the Philippines' sovereign rating alongside that of other emerging economies.

As this developed, the government's planned 500 million euro bond issue hangs as investors seek higher returns on their exposure to the Philippines due to increased uncertainties caused by the likelihood of the Philippines staying in the Financial Action Task Force's list of uncooperative countries when it comes to money laundering.

Sources said that underwriters of the euro bond deal have solicited only 400 million euros in bids. The transaction was scheduled for pricing last night.

In a latest S&P report, the foreign rating firm said that as the threat of war looms against Iraq, a conflict might affect S&P's 93 sovereign ratings.

"Sovereign ratings that currently have a negative outlook (such as those of Brazil, Guatemala, India, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Morocco, the Philippines and Ukraine) would be at particular risk of downgrade," it said.

S&P had downgraded its outlook on the country's foreign currency borrowings to negative last October, a move that triggered a similar decision from Fitch Ratings in November.

Last month, Moody's Investors Service downgraded its outlook but only on the local currency borrowings.

The Philippines' fiscal deficit and ballooning debt worried S&P the most.

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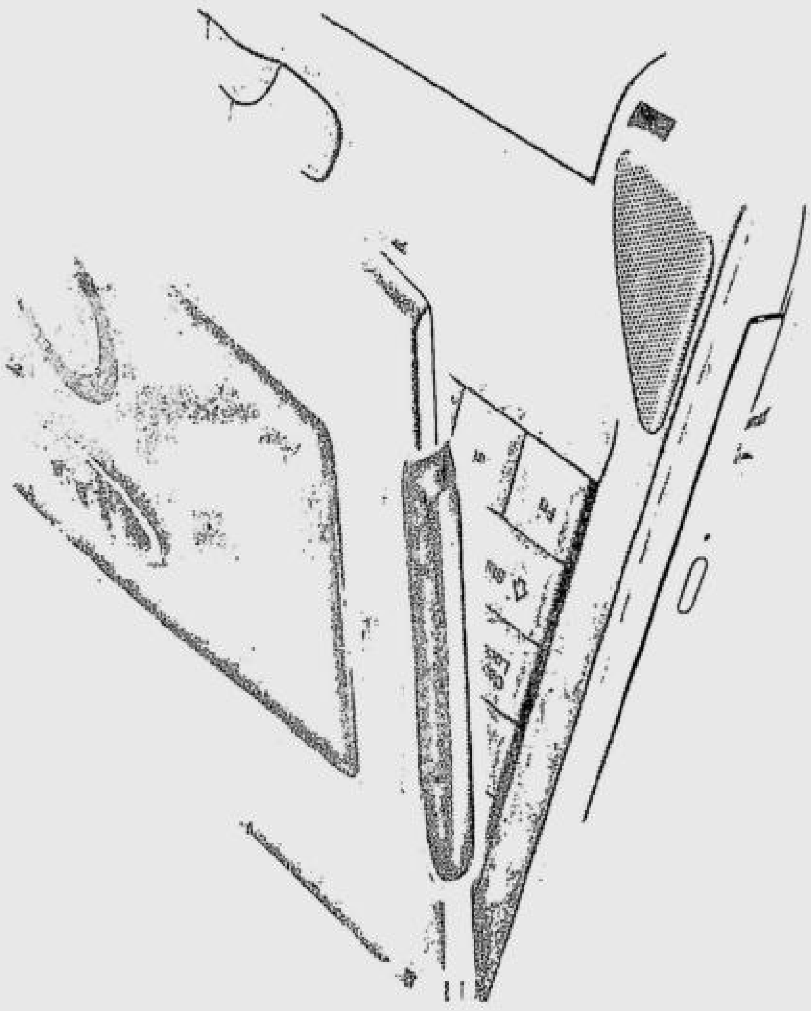
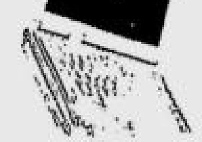


LIFEBOOK



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DA seeks 8-year extension of farm modernization program

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture is pushing for the extension of the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (Afma) for another eight years to enable the government to maintain the tariff shields on agriculture products.

"Afma was placed to enable farmers to compete globally under the free trade regime, but so far these past years it was not properly funded," said Agriculture Secretary Luis P. Lorenzo in a roundtable interview with the INQUIRER business staff .

Afma required a P20-billion budget from the national government. However, after almost 10 years of program implementation, hardly 50 percent of that amount was given to the DA.

"The law states that there must be an additional money for the program over and above the agency's budget," said Agriculture Undersecretary Arsenio Balisacan in another interview.

Balisacan said that part of the Afma was the imposition of tariffs on some agricultural products, the proceeds of which should be plowed back to a farm sector fund that would be used for the provision of safety nets to sectors that would be adversely affected by the influx of imports. *Christine A. Gaylican*

WAR JITTERS

Steel, resin prices up

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRICES of two basic industrial commodities—steel and plastic resins—have been on the upsurge due to war jitters and tight supply in the world market since December last year.

Local industries are bracing for the worst as they warned that prices of steel and plastic could easily double if the United States proceeds with its plan to use military action against Iraq.

Cathay Pacific Steel Corp. chair John K.C. Ng said prices of slabs (the raw material used in making a wide range of steel products) had increased by 30 percent in the last two months due to the scarcity of the material, even in major slab producers including Russia and Ukraine.

Ng said Russia and Ukraine had cut down on their exports of slab after the former communist countries undertook a massive infrastructure program to build their economy. Russia and Ukraine have already exhausted most of their stockpile of cheap slabs after years of dumping these commodities to other countries. Ng said the supply problem had been aggravated by a looming war in the Middle East that also had increased the demand for steel products worldwide.

Prices of hot rolled coils (used to produce pipes, tubes and structural members) have doubled to $360 to $380 per metric ton from $180 to $190 mer metric ton last year. Prices of cold rolled coils (used in making G.I. sheets and raw materials for fabricators, appliances and vehicle assembly) have nearly doubled to $500 per metric ton from $260 per metric ton last year.

A source from the plastic industry said the price of plastic resins had increased substantially since December last year largely due to tensions in the Middle East. Plastic resins are produced from petroleum-based monomers whose prices have paralleled the growth in crude oil prices.

Polyethylene prices have increased by 20 percent to $660 per metric ton from $550 per metric ton in December. Polypropylene prices have surged by as much 51 percent to $800 to $830 per metric ton from $550 per metric ton.

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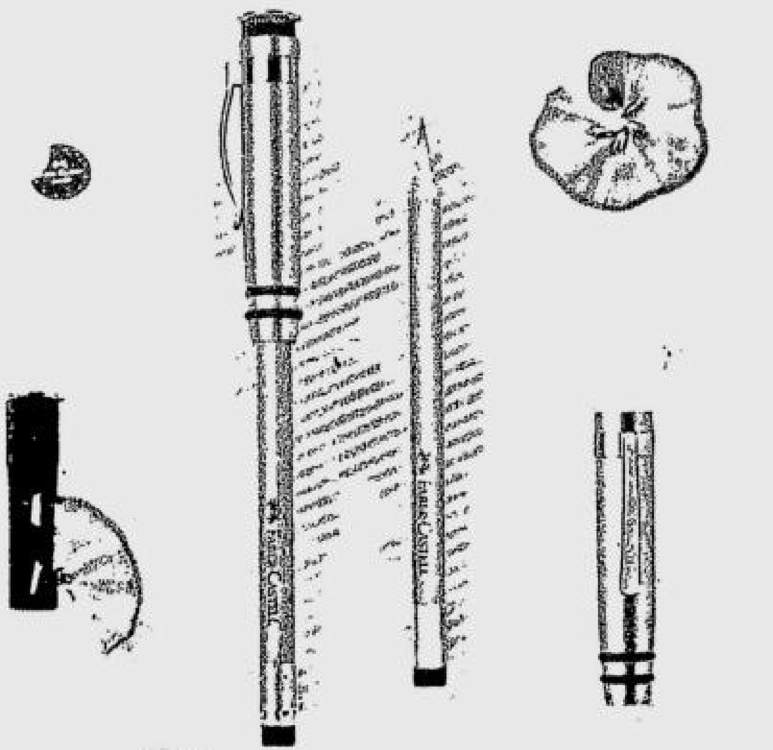

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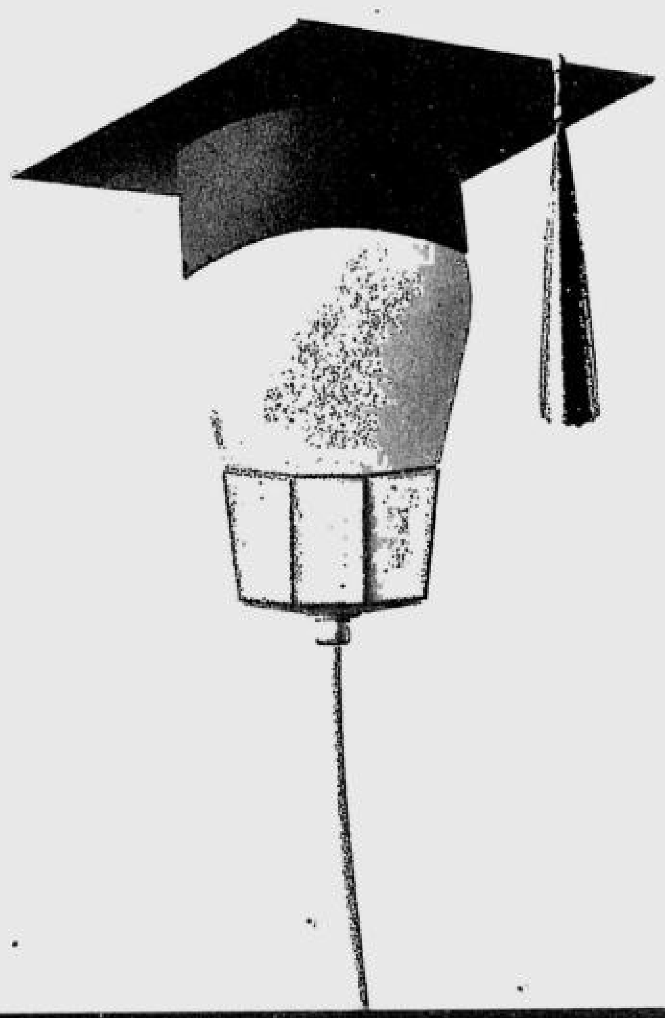

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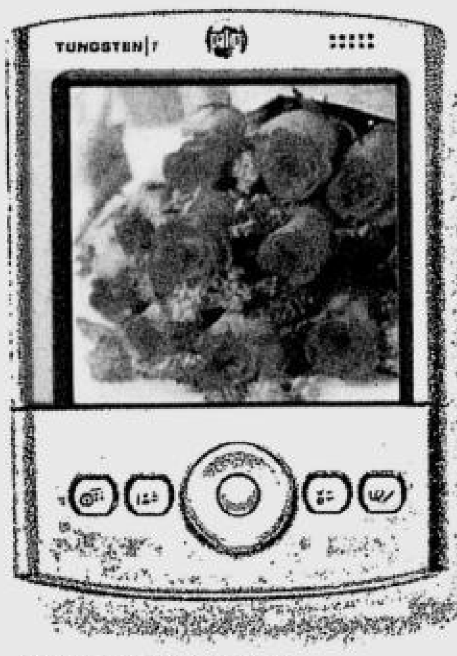

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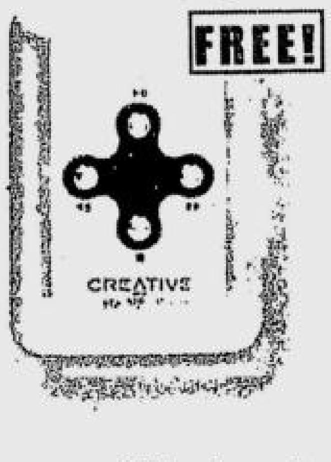

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Local tuna canning company to build ₱1-B tin can factory

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A FILIPINO tuna canner, Genpack Corp., is pouring some P1.04 billion into a tin can manufacturing project in General Santos City in Mindanao.

The Board of Investments yesterday reported that Genpack would produce an average 362.9 million tin cans a year to be sold mainly to its subsidiaries and affiliates, including RD Tuna Canners Ltd. in Papua New Guinea, Philibest Canning Corp. and Celebes Canning.

The BOI said Genpack would also sell part of its output to tuna fishers and canners in General Santos City and Zamboanga.

The project is expected to generate some P1.7 billion in annual sales and 174 new jobs.

The factory will start operation in May.

The tin can factory is expected to spur further the development of General Santos City and Zamboanga, whose economies are mainly driven by tuna fishing.

The BOI has been promoting the interest of the local tuna fishing industry in global trade talks by seeking fair treatment on the country's tuna exports to the United States and Europe. The BOI said canned tuna exports have the potential to contribute more than what it was generating at the present.

The BOI crowed about the project as testament to the steadily growing confidence of Filipino investors particularly in Mindanao.

Caffeine fix leads to a coffee chain

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

SUCCESS STORY

GETTING their caffeine fixes at a store in Quezon City, Mocha Blends' Paul Mannassis, Piolo Pascual and Florante de la Cruz.

HAD entrepreneur Florante de la Cruz found the optical frame business the least bit interesting, then local gourmet coffee enthusiasts would not have been able to taste the unique offerings of Mocha Blends, a local chain of coffee shops that is giving foreign firms a run for their money.

De la Cruz considered the optical frame business when he went to Australia in 2001 in search of new investment opportunities. But he got bored silly after just a few days of sitting in seminars about the optical business. He knew then that it was not for him.

So off he went again to look for another possible business, and he found himself in a homebuilders show. He got curious because he thought it was related to his original business of machinery distribution.

In the middle of that show was a booth of Mocha Coffee, primarily a roaster and blender of coffee beans, which was giving out free espressos to show participants.

One sip and De la Cruz was hooked. Not only on the coffee but also on the idea of going into the coffee business.

"I met the people behind it and I went to the showroom of Mocha Coffee that very afternoon. I saw their coffee products and also the Elektra line of hand-made Italian coffee machines. I got interested in the concept. I told them that I wanted to bring their coffee to the Philippines," De la Cruz said.

So in September 2001, just two months after taking a sip of Mocha Coffee, De la Cruz invited Paul Mannassis, owner of Mocha Coffee and the brains behind its unique line of roasted coffee, to take a look at the Philippines.

"I think it was also good timing for me because the group was already thinking of expanding in Asia. It distributes to about 280 outlets in Sydney and then in Melbourne and, at that time, was already talking to other potential distributors in Asia. I was the one interested for the Philippines," he said.

Mannassis came in November and saw the potential of the coffee market, especially as more and more Filipinos—like De la Cruz and his friends—are becoming coffee addicts, which explains the proliferation of foreign coffee chains in the Philippines.

De la Cruz's firm, Edsa Agro Industrial Corp., thus, got the deal to distribute Mocha Coffee and Elektra Machines that same month.

Penetrating the local coffee market, however, turned out to be more difficult than he thought.

He first planned to distribute Mocha Coffee's roasted coffee beans to different restaurants, but they were not buying because they found the specialty coffee beans to be too expensive. Most wanted to stick to the old formula of serving ordinary brewed coffee, the kind offered by fast-food chains.

"I think the market in 2001 was not ready for specialty coffee. Awareness was low, and many did not see the value. I got frustrated," he said.

Branching out

De la Cruz, however, believed in the product so much that he decided to retail the coffee himself and create a market for specialty coffee.

He was inspired by the experience in Sydney that, despite a population of only four million, hosts over 8,000 coffee shops.

De la Cruz then gathered his friends and associates to invest in the coffee business with him. They scouted for possible sites and in April 2002, the first Mocha Blends shop was put up in the Circle C mall along Congressional Avenue in Quezon City.

The second shop in Robinson's Metro East followed just two months later. By January this year, the network has expanded to four, including a kiosk at the SM Megamall. The flagship Tomas Morato branch was opened last month with actor Piolo Pascual as a 50-percent joint venture partner.

Main attraction

Just like Mocha Coffee's shop in Sydney, the Mocha Blends outlets stand out because of the comfortable interiors, which are dominated by black-and-white photographic prints of actual customers in Sydney.

The main attraction, however, is the coffee. The menu itself is a source of education for many non-coffee drinkers, who will be introduced to the different kinds of preparations that can be made out of an ordinary espresso machine. Prices are also reasonable, even lower than their counterparts in the business.

An order for espresso can be in small cups or shots of short black, doppio, macchiato, afogato; and piccolo or medio of long black, café latte, flat white, cappuccino or café Vienna. Or one could go for a mocha in piccolos or medios of café mocha, mocha mal or mocha adoration.

Cold mocha drinks in medio or supreme include mocha frost, mocha nut truffle and mocha mint madness.

Non-espresso based drinks come in piccolo or medios of moo steamers and hot choco. It also offers iced latte, iced cappuccino and iced chocolate.

If one goes for tea drinks, there are flavored teas of lemon, peach, raspberry or mango in medio or specialty, passion flower, lemon grass, chamomile and peppermint.

There are also smoothies such as banana, vanilla, strawberry and chocolate or Alpine frost in supremos of Mocha Tiramisu, Blue Kiwi Blend and Chocolate pear.

Room for growth

The combination of the unique coffee blends and the ambiance has made Mocha Blends the coffee place of choice among hard-core coffee drinkers and even among those who just want to wind down after a hard day's work.

De la Cruz is quick to point out that the secret is in the coffee beans, which are prepared by Mocha Coffee in Australia. The coffee beans are usually a mix of three to four different varieties, including the Philippines' own Arabica beans.

Encouraged by the customers' response, he says at least 50 shops would be opened this year. He believes that despite the sprouting of coffee shops in the metropolis, there is still a big room for growth.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, February 13, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	1,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	34	34.5	34	34	262,700
Citystate Savings Bank	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	121,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	29.5	29.5	29	29	1,500
Philippine National Bank	27	27	27	27	1,500
Security Bank Corp.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,800
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1215	1220	1215	1220	660
Sun Life Financial Serv.	930	930	925	925	2,180
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.39	0.4	0.37	0.37	7,830,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	540	550	530	530	4,210
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	10,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	730,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	302.5	312.5	302.5	310	223,020
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	5,900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	8.9	8.9	8.7	8.7	104,000
Manila Electric Co. B	12.5	12.75	12.5	12.5	2,146,100
Petron Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.66	1.68	4,153,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1	1	1	1	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	3,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	316,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	100,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16.75	17	16.75	17	29,600
San Miguel Corp. A	56.5	56.5	56	56.5	176,200
San Miguel Corp. B	63.5	64.5	63.5	64.5	146,100
Universal Robina Corp.	3	3.05	3	3	7,103,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	10,000
Ayala Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2	619,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.32	2.36	2.32	2.36	272,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6	230,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.0048	0.0048	3,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.9	2	1.9	2	40,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.115	0.115	15,060,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	100,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	8.7	8.8	8.7	8.7	112,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.28	1.28	863,000
Medco Holdings	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.58	0.59	3,570,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	30,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.14	0.145	0.135	0.14	11,350,000
Music Corp.	0.175	0.18	0.175	0.175	2,560,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	17,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.69	0.73	0.68	0.68	240,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.5	14.75	14.5	14.5	240,600
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.41	0.44	0.41	0.44	180,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	1,500
Jollibee Warrants	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	2,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.95	5	4.9	4.9	591,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	20,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	160,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.99	0.99	0.94	0.95	2,330,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.12	0.12	270,000
SM Development Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	23,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	1,253,000
MINING					
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0028	0.003	0.0028	0.003	10,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	900,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	44,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	30,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	240,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc.	404,540	15,062,450.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	68,004,530	167,112,065.00
PRO	4,647,000	11,953,100.00
Mining	10,900,000	284,400.00
OIL	74,240,000	230,400.00
GRAND TOTALS :	158,196,070	194,642,415.00
	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	363.60	DOWN 2.35
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,490.62	DOWN 0.65
PRO	460.08	UP 0.77
Mining	1,220.63	UNCH 0.00
OIL	1.06	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	625.95	DOWN 1.03
Composite	1,040.19	DOWN 1.18

NO. OF ADVANCES: 14; NO. OF DECLINES: 18; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 35; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 67; NO. OF TRADES: 1,295

DISCLOSURES

LA Tondeña Distillers Inc. has reminded its stockholders that they have until April 21 to submit proxies for the company's regular stockholders' meeting. The last day for the validation of these proxies will be on April 28.

* * *

FILSYN Corp. has named Sesenio Ravalo as its compliance officer. He is also the company's senior executive vice president and chief operating officer.

* * *

SAN Miguel Pure Foods Co. Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 8, 2 p.m., for stockholders as of March 14.

* * *

PRIME Orion Philippines Inc. has designated Ronald Sugapong as its compliance officer. The company's board also confirmed the designation of Ricardo Romulo as an independent director. The members of its nomination and compensation and remuneration committees are Felipe Yap, Yuen Po Seng and Romulo. Its audit committee members are Romulo, Sugapong and Jesus Clint Aranas. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa , PDI Research***

NFA fines state-run rice trader

THE NATIONAL Food Authority has penalized trading firm PEC India Ltd. for delivering substandard rice last year.

The NFA is asking PEC, a state-run firm, to pay some $2.5 million for "reconditioning" some 100,000 metric tons of rice that, it says, has a "sack-like" odor.

NFA Administrator Arthur Yap disclosed yesterday that the NFA encountered difficulty in selling Indian rice stocks because of its poor quality.

"This is to clarify that there was no rotting rice acquired last year from Vietnam, Thailand or elsewhere. But we encountered problems with our imports from India. It could be resolved, and the Indian firm will pay for the expenses we will incur," Yap said.

Yap said the NFA was not banning PEC from competing in future bids for Philippine rice imports because the country could not afford to lose one of its cheap sources of rice.

Mutual fund industry net assets doubled to ₱25.8B as of end-2002

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE MUTUAL fund industry recorded a banner year last year, as its net assets more than doubled to P25.8 billion as of end-2002 from P11.4 billion the previous year.

The growth of the industry was driven by the rapid expansion of bond funds—mutual funds invested in fixed-income securities—as investors sought higher-yielding investment outlets to park their assets following the sharp decline in interest rates last year.

The size of bond funds last year surged to P23.5 billion from P8.4 billion the year before.

Meanwhile, the net assets of balanced funds fell to P1.157 billion as against P1.51 billion, while net assets of growth or stock funds also dropped to P1.14 billion from P1.47 billion.

Balanced funds refer to mutual funds that invest in both stocks and fixed-income securities.

The Ayala Fixed Income Fund accounted for the largest share of the bond funds with P13.26 billion in net assets, 124 percent higher than the P5.4 billion it recorded at the end of 2001.

Other large bond funds included Philam Bond Fund, with P5 billion in net assets; Philam Dollar Bond Fund, P2.2 billion; and, Sun Life Prosperity Bond Fund, P2.9 billion.

Earlier, Investment Company Association of the Philippines chair Artemio Tanchoco projected that the industry would again double this year in size, again driven largely by the growth in bond funds.

Gov't institutionalizes Internet budget

STARTING with next year's national budget, the Department of Budget and Management will institutionalize the budget for the government's Internet-related projects.

In yesterday's Information Technology and E-Commerce Council plenary at the E-Services Philippines 2003 exposition, ITECC executive director Virgilio Peña said the current budget for e-government projects was way below what was necessary to create a fully integrated system.

Under the current arrangement, only 0.8 percent of the national budget was set aside as information technology capital.

"This is not enough for serious implementation. We need to find other funding sources," Peña said.

This year, President Macapagal-Arroyo herself has approved the allotment of around 2 percent of each government agency's capital outlay and maintenance and other operating expenses budget for e-government projects.

Roxas' Piatco takeover plan a booby trap—Yasay

TRADE Secretary Manuel Roxas II's proposal for a government takeover of Naia Terminal 3 will amount to a rescue package for Piatco and create a host of new problems for the government, starting with how to raise at least $170 million to finish the stalled project and even more funds since Piatco can claim damages for "such an unlawful act," according to MIA-Naia Association of Service Operators chair Perfecto Yasay Jr.

In a news statement, Yasay said a takeover now, just a few weeks before the Supreme Court was expected to rule on the case, was impossible without putting the government at a great disadvantage.

"This is a legal booby trap," Yasay said.

The Roxas proposal legally unravels the position of President Macapagal-Arroyo that the Piatco contract is null and void because it would allow Piatco to claim unlawful expropriation of property and seek compensation plus damages, he said.

He said the government would have to raise $170 million without congressional appropriation should it approve Roxas' plan.

To borrow will take months, if at all, he said.

He said there were 42 unfinished portions and systems of the terminal that would require $100 million.

The balance of $70 million would be for Takenaka Corp. of Japan, the general contractor that stopped work on the project on Dec. 3 after months of not being paid by Piatco.

It has not resumed work up to now.

GETTING TO KNOW THE BUSINESS

Big money lures phone card networking investors

By Maurice Malanes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Tales of multimillion-peso earnings fly thick and fast, enticing hordes of people to invest in the newest money-earning scheme in town: Mobile phone card networking.

The two long queues of people claiming their cellular phone cards in downtown Baguio on a regular weekday attest to the instant success of whoever thought of the scheme.

A 43-year-old local businesswoman here is one of the many investors that the new scheme has lured. She learned last December that her friend earned P3.5 million in a year after investing a few thousands of pesos in a cellular phone card networking scheme.

Inspired by her friend's tale, the businesswoman last month borrowed money from relatives and, together with a business partner, was able to pool P189,000, which she invested in a cell card networking company here.

The P189,000 investment is equal to 126 heads of networks, including the businesswoman herself as the top person over what is called "downlines" of recruits.

The scheme works like this. For every P1,500 an investor puts into the company, he or she is entitled to 10 cellular phone cards (either Smart, Globe or Talk 'n Text) worth P300 each in 10 weeks or one card weekly for 10 weeks.

But the investor must recruit two other persons, each of whom must also invest P1,500 each. Every recruit must also do the same—recruit at least two persons, each of whom must also recruit two others, and each of whom must shell out P1,500.

A person who invests just P1,500 and who maintains two downlines, each of whom has also two recruits, is entitled to 48 cell cards a year.

That was the rule, if not the catch, when the company began operating in August 2001. But sometime in July last year, the company changed the rules.

The company posted a public notice at its claim office that instead of 48 cell cards, it should be 30 cards, saying the company would go bankrupt, especially if the lowest-rung of downlines stops recruiting new members.

The new rule turned off some investors. But the businesswoman thinks otherwise.

"I would like to believe that the company was honest by posting the new rule," she told the INQUIRER.

So she took the risk of investing P189,000 in the company last January. She did not have to recruit because she placed as her downlines her own name until she completed 126 heads.

Upon registration, the businesswoman was entitled to 126 cards, which she could also get as cash at P273 a card.

She chose cash and brought home P34,398.

After collecting the 126 cell cards, she was entitled to collect 62 cell cards weekly for nine weeks, which is equivalent to P16,926 weekly or P152,334 in nine weeks.

If on the 10th week, as the new rule says, her lowest downlines will not recruit, or in her case, will not add to her investment, she will only be entitled to 30 cards each week for a year.

But she calculated that even with only 30 cards each week for one year or 38 weeks, she could earn a total of P311,220.

All in all, she expects to gross P497,952 by the first quarter of 2004. Deduct the P189,000 she invested and she nets P308,952.

Since she invested last January, the businesswoman estimates that she can recoup her investment by middle of next month.

Baguio's latest moneymaking machine is cell card networking

From page B1

they admit they are in a gamble.

"What we know is we're earning so much through this business," a member said.

But several of them have warned the INQUIRER not to write about the scheme for fear that they may lose their money once authorities investigate the company's activities.

"Please wait for us t o recover our investments first," they pleaded.

The cell card marketing company is a stock corporation registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission in February 2002.

Owned by a retired soldier and four members of his family, the company has a paid up capital of P50,000. It has at present about 50,000 members "with multiple subscriptions," according to its manager.

Trial period

Most of them come from Mt. Province, while the rest come from Baguio City, Benguet, Kalinga, Cagayan, Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur.

The firm's manager said some members come "from Mindanao and other places where there are military detachments."

The company appeared to have passed the trial period when its members were playing their cards and bets very cautiously.

In fact, many members, like the employees of an electronics exporter in the city, have been victims of earlier pyramiding schemes.

They are trying their luck again hoping that they will be able to recover their losses. Experience has taught them that the earlier one joins a "chain distribution plan or pyramid sales scheme," one can win.

After several months of seeing their money double or triple several times over, the members decide to pour in more money into the scheme.

Tremendous growth

They use their retirement funds, mortgage their property, borrow from relatives and friends, cooperatives, banks and even from loan sharks.

Now, almost every member has "multiple subscriptions" where a member did not recruit some if not all of the members composing his pyramid.

Instead, the member paid or invested for the membership fees of those supposed to be in his pyramid and, in effect, got the number of cell cards due them.

At least five member-investors are claiming 700 to 1,000 cell cards a week for a period of 48 weeks.

Members sell the cell cards to retailers and other customers from P275 to P300 each. They supply almost all retail outlets in Baguio City and in their hometowns.

Business scheme

To join the business, one has to be a member through an endorsement or sponsorship of an existing member. Like all members, one has to pay the P1,500 registration fee. Immediately, he receives a P300 worth of cell card.

If he recruits or endorses two members, he starts a three-member pyramid that will entitle him to a weekly supply of one cell card for 10 consecutive weeks.

If his two recruits will, in turn, recruit two members each (making a three-layer pyramid of seven members), his supply of cell cards will be extended to 30 weeks, while his second-layer members will be getting 10 cell cards each.

If the four recruits in the third layer will endorse two new members each (expanding the pyramid to 15 members), then his supply will be extended to 48 weeks, which is the maximum benefit that the company can give to a member.

A member will only receive one cell card despite his membership fee of P1,500 if he does not put at least a pair of members under him. This makes recruitment or investment non-stop, giving the company a continuous inflow of capital.

A member who doesn't recruit loses P1,200 of his membership fee. This is one way the company earns.

Participants can beat the company from its earning potentials when they register a strategic chain of seven or 15 members at one time.

When they reinvest their weekly proceeds to increase their membership subscriptions, their capital will multiply many times over.

Members who lack capital or who want to profit more from the scheme resort to pre-subscribing their cards to "indirect investors" (those who subscribe to the cell cards without getting into the chain) at a P210 to P250 discount per cell card.

The bigger money an investor gives and the longer payback period he agrees to, the cheaper his subscription rate will be.

This is how an indirect investor may earn a 20-percent profit from a P1-million investment in only five weeks. *(To be continued)*

Pharmaco-economics: Making healthcare affordable

With the increased cost of medicines, patients have now grown wiser. Even those who can well afford expensive drugs from multinational companies are asking their doctors for more reasonably priced products that are equally effective as the more expensive brands. This is the science of pharmaco-economics.

It is well known that in developed and much more so in underdeveloped and developing countries, healthcare cost is a primary concern. It is therefore increasingly important for medical practitioners, pharmacists and other healthcare givers to understand pharmaco-economics, which ensures administration of medicines, other healthcare products and services with the highest possible benefit to the patient in relation to the cash invested.

Pharmaco-economics therefore compares the cost of the medicine, medical procedure or service to its anticipated benefits. Although cost containment is one of its goals, it is not necessarily synonymous with it since a low-cost medicine or service is not always synonymous with improved patient care. It is critical that healthcare products and services achieve the highest possible benefit from the cash invested.

The price of a medicine is not the true cost of that product. A cheap drug which is not effective and unable to treat the medical condition for which it was given, might lead to further complications, increased hospitalization expenses, diminished productivity and income.

On the other hand, what seems to be an expensive medicine which is effective and leads to a quicker recovery from the illness, may turn out to be the true 'cheaper' medicine once all the factors are considered.

What is ideal of course is an equally effective and reasonably priced or affordable medicine.

One of the objectives of pharmaco-economics is to improve patient compliance by providing with effective and affordable medicines which have to be taken religiously for several years, sometimes for life, as in life-long indications such as hypertension and diabetes.

Because of the perceived high cost of medicines, compliance has been poor and many patients opt not to take their prescribed medicines. They therefore take the 'do nothing' alternative. Many patients however do not realize that rarely does 'doing nothing' cost nothing. In fact, it might cost the patient a lot, like when he develops a heart attack or stroke for not taking his medicines. In practically all medical conditions, there are always costs and consequences of doing nothing to treat the medical problem. It might even turn out more expensive in the long run.

It is the role of the pharmaco-economics to inform the clinician and patients of all the costs and consequences of the use of competing alternative therapies. It will certainly be more cost-effective to prescribe the product with the lower price tag but with an equivalent or superior efficacy, coupled with improved compliance resulting in fewer repeat consultations and fewer repeat prescriptions, not to mention a better quality of life and productivity. A good understanding of pharmaco-economics may serve to guide disease management, inform clinical decisions, and aid rational prescribing.

When one talks of pharmaco-economics, one has to talk about bioavailability and bioequivalence. Many people are confused when encountering either or both terms. They sound very similar but they are very different and can not be used interchangeably.

The term "bioavailability" refers to the extent to which a drug or nutrient reaches its site of action or a biological fluid such as blood that has access to its site of action. The term "bioequivalence" refers to pharmaceutically equivalent drug products i.e., two brands with the same generic components, where the parameters for bioavailability of the active ingredients are not significantly different under suitable test conditions. In other words, this is a comparison of two or more products with respect to their bioavailability.

Bioequivalent simply means that one brand or dosage form of a drug or supplement is equivalent to a reference brand or dosage form of the same drug or supplement in terms of various bioavailability parameters measured via tests in human subjects.

There is no such thing as increased bioequivalence. A product can be either bioequivalent or bioinequivalent. A product can't be more bioequivalent or less bioequivalent.

Therapharma and the other subsidiaries of Unilab have made a firm commitment to provide the Filipino family with bioequivalent and reasonably priced medicines to achieve more optimum patient compliance.

> "I thought I'll never celebrate another birthday after my heart attack. With my anti-cholesterol statin*, I'm looking forward to more candles to blow."

-Zenaida Fortes
Senior Accountant
Heart-attack victim

☑ Check with your doctor the new affordable statin*...

Recent landmark trials have shown the beneficial effects of the cholesterol-lowering drug known as **statins.**[1]
Statins help prolong lives, lower heart-related deaths, prevent heart attacks and strokes...
only IF they are taken for at least 3 years, religiously.[2]
COST of statins though is a big barrier to compliance.

Now for Life!

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* This class of drug is approved for sale by BFAD as a prescription drug and should be bought only with a prescription.

A public health service announcement from
therapharma
Your partner in cardiovascular healthcare.

DIVERGENT VIEWS

Bush, Greenspan square off on stimulus need

WASHINGTON—The White House and Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan diverged further in their views over growing budget deficits on Wednesday as the two sides aired their differences over the potential economic risks.

In a second day of Capitol Hill testimony that Democrats seized upon as evidence of opposition to President George W. Bush's tax-cut program, Greenspan told the House of Representatives Financial Services Committee a surge in government red ink could bring higher interest rates on consumer loans, particularly on mortgages.

Bush said the economy needs a boost now to lift it on to a more vigorous growth path and urged quick action.

"If the economy needs a little extra oomph, if more money needs to go into the pockets of our people so as to encourage economic vitality, why wait?" he asked during an address to small investors and others in the Washington suburb of Alexandria, Va.

The White House on Wednesday was still trying to counter Greenspan's testimony a day earlier to the Senate Banking Committee where he said he saw no need for immediate economic stimulus, insisting it did not feel the influential Fed chief was directly rejecting the Bush proposals.

"There is somewhat of a difference about the stimulus, the need for stimulus, and in that there is reasonable disagreement," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said, as Bush and other top administration officials began fanning out to seek public support for the tax cuts.

Greenspan did not explicitly question the need for stimulus Wednesday, as he did Tuesday when he termed it "premature," but he again highlighted the urgent need for budget discipline and suggested the economy could pick up steam on its own without tax cuts once Iraqi war fears dissipate.

In response to questions, Greenspan refuted a Bush administration contention that there was no link between deficits and the possibility for rises in long-term rates, making clear he regarded this as a real threat.

"Yes, I am concerned about long-term interest rates specifically—but mortgage rates in particular—rising," Greenspan said, adding: "An extraordinarily important prop to this economy through a very stressful two or three years has been low mortgage interest rates."

The Fed chairman was offering his twice-a-year assessment of the economy, again saying rising geopolitical tensions had added to uncertainties about the future and created "formidable barriers to new investment and thus to a resumption of vigorous expansion of overall economic activity."

Then Bush administration argues cutting taxes now will bring a flood of investment and job creation that will mean higher revenues in the future.

Treasury Secretary John Snow told reporters Tuesday that resulting deficits would be "manageable" and "modest" when considered as a percentage of total national output.

Greenspan said the deficits would indeed be modest as a proportion of gross domestic product in the early years, but the red ink would burgeon in later years when the Baby Boomer generation began to retire.

Snow, who made his first trip as Treasury secretary to Wall Street Tuesday and heads for Detroit and Philadelphia at the end of the week, said he was part of "a full-court press" to sell the stimulus plan.

Greenspan said Wednesday he favors quick reinstatement of pay-as-you-go budget rules that would require tax cuts or spending increases to be offset by higher taxes or spending cuts elsewhere.

He said it was essential that "growing budget deficits (do not) again become entrenched." Bush's proposals foresee record deficits of $304 billion in the current fiscal year ending Sept. 30 and $307 billion in fiscal 2004. Over five years, the shortfall would amount to more than $1.08 trillion.

Greenspan warned a "state of relative budget tranquility" will end abruptly as those born after World War II begin retiring in droves in a decade.

He said now was the time to prepare so that Social Security and other entitlement programs can bear the strain.

The Fed chairman endorsed a core provision of the Bush plan—ending so-called double taxation of dividends, once as corporate profits and again in the hands of shareholders—and said this would carry widespread economic benefits. *Reuters*

Oil jumps, stocks slide, tensions mount

SINGAPORE—Oil burst to a fresh 28-month peak on Thursday and Asian stocks sank as the United States stepped up preparations for a strike on Iraq and to deal with attacks by Islamic extremists, keeping the dollar under pressure.

A slide in US crude supplies and concern about bank earnings provided fresh factors for traders, but the wider focus remained on the global fault lines of Iraq, Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network and North Korea's nuclear programme.

Still, investors decided the war risks were already reflected in the price of gold, which fell to a four-week low.

US oil prices rose as much as 28 cents from the New York close to $36.05 a barrel, the highest level since October 2000, after government data showed US crude supplies had dropped to their lowest levels since the 1970s Arab oil embargo.

The fall in US inventories came amid heightened fears that a US-led attack on Iraq was imminent, with Washington calling up additional reserve troops and UN weapons inspectors due to present a key report on Friday.

A war could disrupt Middle East oil supplies at a time when winter demand and a strike in Venezuela have sapped supplies.

"Balancing bullish fundamentals with political factors, we'll probably see a trading range between $30 and $40 a barrel over the next month," said Gordon Kwan, oil and gas analyst at HSBC in Hong Kong.

"Even without the threat of war in Iraq, there's still upside for crude prices. Despite talk of Venezuela increasing production and more Middle East barrels, it's not feeding into the United States yet and we're still in the depths of winter," Kwan said.

Asian stocks dropped to three-month lows as measured by the broad MSCI Asia Pacific Free Index, with all markets in the red. Traders said activity had shrunk ahead of the weapons inspectors' report. *Reuters*

US to press China on WTO issues

WASHINGTON—US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick travels to Beijing early next week for talks that US farm and business groups hope will spur progress in areas ranging from biotech crop standards to insurance market reforms.

Zoellick's first trip to China in nearly a year comes as the US trade deficit with the increasingly powerful exporter was expected to set a new record in 2002 at more than $100 billion.

US manufacturers also complain that China's undervalued currency gives it an unfair advantage in world trade.

A US trade official, speaking on condition he not be identified, said late on Tuesday Zoellick will stress the need for China to follow through on the market-opening commitments it made to join the World Trade Organization in late 2001.

In December, Zoellick's office issued a mixed report card on China's record during its first year of WTO membership.

While applauding China's overall effort, it expressed "serious concern" with the slow pace of implementation in the area of agriculture, intellectual property and services.

Zoellick heads to Beijing after a meeting with top trade officials from 24 other countries this weekend in Tokyo aimed at breathing new life into faltering world trade talks.

Theresa Howes, senior director for trade at the American Farm Bureau Federation, said her organization hoped Zoellick and his aides raised a number of concerns.

Those range from long-running problems with China's acceptance of US soybeans that are genetically modified to

"onerous and duplicative" inspection and labeling requirements that are barriers to US exporters of cotton and poultry.

These are practices "that they (Beijing) really shouldn't be doing if you look at the WTO agreement," Howes said. *Reuters*

Shoppers purchase goods at the Yongsan shopping district in Seoul. Moody's Investors Services have downgraded South Korea's credit outlook, dealing a blow to South Korea's economy and sending a chill through financial markets.

AFP

Coke boosts profit, sees growth

ATLANTA—Shrugging off economic weakness in many of its main markets, No. 1 soft drink maker Coca-Cola Co. on Wednesday posted a slight rise in quarterly profit and predicted solid growth for its core beverage brands in 2003.

Coca-Cola's senior executives had a spring in their step as they celebrated fourth-quarter results that they said showed the Atlanta-based company's soft drinks, juices and bottled waters gaining market share from competitors.

Reversing sluggish sales of core products, such as its flagship Coke Classic cola brand, has been a top priority for the soft drink maker since it embarked on a sweeping restructuring of its operations three years ago.

"I think this is an encouraging fourth-quarter result that was somewhat better than people expected, despite some very visible challenges that the company confronted in some major markets," Goldman Sachs analyst Marc Cohen said.

Cohen, who has an "outperform" rating on Coca-Cola shares compared with an "attractive" rating on the beverage sector, said the company appeared to be positioned in 2003 to hit the top end of its 11 percent to 12 percent long-term earnings per share annual growth target.

For the fourth quarter of 2002, Coca-Cola earned $930 million, or 38 cents a share. The company said its decision to treat stock options as an expense cut 2 cents per share from results and would trim 13 cents per share from 2003 earnings.

Coca-Cola earned $914 million, or 37 cents a share, in the fourth quarter of 2001.

Excluding the accounting change, the company's earnings were in line with analysts' consensus forecast of 40 cents per share, according to research firm Thomson First Call. Revenue rose to $4.8 billion from $4.24 billion. *Reuters*

Japan rejects WTO farm reform plan

TOKYO—Japan's Agriculture Ministry said on Thursday that farm import tariff cuts proposed by the World Trade Organization were too big, and it would seek a major revision jointly with the European Union.

The WTO's chief agriculture mediator released a draft reform plan on Wednesday that proposed an average cut of 60 percent in import tariffs on farm goods, which are currently protected by duties of more than 90 percent.

The minimum tariff cut proposed in the WTO plan is 45 percent, while Japan's is 15 percent.

Japan has proposed an average 36 percent reduction in import tariffs, less severe than the plan by the United States and the Cairns Group of farm exporting countries for an across-the-board ceiling of 25 percent on tariffs.

"The proposed cuts in import tariffs are not acceptable," said Japanese Agriculture Minister Tadamori Oshima. "If this plan is implemented, it would cause fatal damage to Japanese farming."

Oshima said Japan would seek major revisions of the draft reform plan at upcoming meetings with WTO member countries in Tokyo and Geneva, before the March 31 deadline for reaching agreement on the blueprint for the farm talks. *Reuters*

Global airlines reduce fares

CHICAGO—Major US and European airlines have launched aggressive transatlantic airfare sales this week to combat weakening demand for overseas travel as the likelihood of a war with Iraq increases.

British Airways kicked off the latest airfare war on Tuesday, with fares before taxes as low as $190 from New York, Dallas and San Diego to London.

The fares were immediately matched by AMR Corp.'s American Airlines, Northwest Airlines Corp., UAL Corp.'s United Airlines and Virgin Atlantic Airways, travel agents said.

"The airlines need to generate demand on their transatlantic routes," said Amy Ziff, who writes a weekly column for online travel agent Travelocity.

"The airline industry expects to be impacted by any major conflict with Iraq," she said. "The industry is planning—and they know based on Desert Storm—that they will probably see a drop-off in traffic, especially in the international market." January, February and March typically are off-peak months for the airline industry, so a fare sale is not surprising for this time of year, travel agents said.

But the latest fare sale is unusual because it offers the same fares for transatlantic travel originating from the U.S. East Coast, Midwest and West Coast. *Reuters*

Valentine lovers squeezed by higher gold prices

NEW YORK—Love won't come cheaply this St. Valentine's Day.

Suitors and spouses giving gold jewelry are feeling the pinch in their wallets from soaring gold prices, which hit 6-1/2 year highs last week on concerns over possible war in Iraq and tensions in North Korea.

But gift-givers don't appear to be deterred.

"My girlfriends and I were just talking about how we all want gold this year," said Carol Madresh, a 27-year old social worker.

"If that means a bigger bite out of my boyfriend's wallet, so what?"

Such demands are priceless for department store retailers.

Jewelry sales have been one of the few bright spots in an overall weak retail sector grappling with a soft economy and possible war.

Last week, retailer J.C. Penney Co. Inc. said the fine jewelry business is one of its best performing units.

Spending more

"If you are buying a gift for a girlfriend or wife for Valentine's Day, you aren't thinking about prices," said William Armstrong, an analyst at C.L. King & Associates. "That means this year you are going to spend more because of the rising price of precious metals."

A week ago, spot gold prices soared to over $390 an ounce, a jump of about 30 percent from year-ago levels.

Brad Powers wishes he had paid a little more attention to the surge in gold prices before promising his fiancee he would buy her a gold bracelet—a purchase he passed up last year.

"The exact same bracelet I was going to buy last February is costing me a lot more this year," said Powers, president of an on-line marketing firm. "But at the end of the day, what choice do I have? She wants the bracelet."

Big Three holiday

That's why St. Valentine's Day, one of the Big Three retail selling holidays along with Christmas and Mother's Day, is a major time for retailers.

While stores start merchandising fine jewelry at the beginning of February, most purchases are traditionally done at the last minute.

Leaner times are forcing shoppers to choose gold and silver over gems, which are typically more expensive, say experts in New York City's Diamond District.

"In times of trouble, people like the shine of gold," said Tova Saij, a jeweler at 55 West, one of the largest gold exchanges in the Diamond District.

Cheaper jewelry

Buyers looking for cheaper gold jewelry in Manhattan may head to Chinatown, where the crowds are noticeably thinner than in the Diamond District.

Marcy Yeung, manager of Golden Pearl Jewelry on Canal Street in Chinatown, said her profits were being squeezed by higher wholesale gold prices, and that she was forced to sell her jewelry at almost the same price as last year.

"This was the worst Chinese New Year I can remember," Yeung said. "Since September 11, there are fewer visitors to Chinatown and they come to look and maybe to eat, but not to buy jewelry."

While customers like Sal Sassa of Hackensack, New Jersey, complained about the prices, they still want to give their loved ones something that will always be cherished.

"Jeans wear out. Flowers die. But the gold will always stay with her," Sassa and. *Reuters*

Liberalization seen killing coffee industry

AMADEO, Cavite—Coffee growers, church people and the local government of this town have urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to immediately enact a law restricting coffee importation to reinvigorate the dying coffee industry in the province.

In a forum held Saturday at the St. Mary Magdalene Parish compound here, they blamed the ill effects of the liberalization of the trading of agriculture products for the sharp decline in the country's coffee production during the past years.

The Kalipunan ng mga Magbubukid sa Kabite (Kamagsasaka-Ka), a local peasant organization, argued that the unhampered influx of cheap coffee beans from Vietnam and Indonesia had already displaced thousands of coffee farmers and left many coffee farms either deserted or converted to other uses.

"Many coffee farmers are forced to abandon their farms because of expensive farm inputs and cheap farm gate prices of our produce," argued Renato Alvarez, Kamagsasaka-Ka chair.

Even the municipal government of this town has taken measures to protect the coffee industry from intrusion of cheaper coffee beans from other countries.

Raising consciousness

The forum, dubbed as "Isang Umagang Walang Kape," was sponsored by the Kamagsasaka-Ka, Simbahan ng mga Magsasaka sa Kabite and the Rural Missionaries of the Philippines.

It sought to raise the consciousness of the public and the government in understanding the current situation of coffee farmers in the country.

Alvarez claimed the farmers have yet to see concrete actions from the national and local governments in helping farmers not just to increase their outputs, but more importantly, to help them attain a "just and livable" price of coffee.

"If the government really wants to address the problems of coffee growers, it should directly consult farmer's organizations. The solution should aim at eradicating all forms of monopoly in the coffee industry," Alvarez said.

The peasant leader asserted that while economists and government agencies are concerned with finding ways to increase coffee production, they shy away from discussing the effects of trade liberalization.

Bad for industry

Alvarez revealed that since the country joined the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade-World Trade Organization (GATT-WTO), coffee production decreased significantly.

According to the Bureau of Agriculture Statistics, coffee is considered as a high-value commodity.

In 1987, local coffee reached its all-time high at P700 per pail. But interestingly, it dropped to P80-115 per pail in the first quarter of 2002.

A pail of coffee usually weighs around 6.5 kilos.

"Statistics belie former Pres. Ramos' contentions that trade liberalization will be good for our economy," Alvarez insisted.

He disclosed that during the period of 1990-1994, the country registered an agricultural products surplus of US$1.2 billion.

However, since the country entered into the GATT-WTO, we suffered a US$3.5-billion agricultural products deficit, he said.

According to Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas chair Rafael Mariano, the country's coffee demands reached 55,000 metric tons last year. But the local growers were able to produce only 35,000 metric tons.

Supply deficit

This means the country has a coffee deficit of some 20,000 metric tons, he noted.

Local coffee companies meet their requirements by importing cheaper coffee from Indonesia and Vietnam, Mariano said.

The deficit, he claimed, can be resolved if only there is a sincere effort from the Macapagal government to help coffee farmers.

"In 1983 and 1990, local farmers produced more than 55,000 metric tons of coffee. In 1989, coffee farmers were able to produce 83,000 metric tons. That gave us a surplus of around 30,000 metric tons. This only means that we can actually meet our demands and have a surplus ready for export," Mariano added. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

STENIEL OBTAINS BANK APPROVAL FOR THE FUTURE

Steniel Manufacturing Corporation ("Steniel") recently signed an amendment to its banking facility agreements with its lender banks Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company ("Metrobank"), Chinatrust (Phils.) Commercial Bank Corporation, and BPI-Family Savings Bank. These amendments allow the management of the payment profile of Steniel's facilities and the disposal of certain non-core properties to reduce outstanding loans earlier than scheduled without affecting operations.

The approval by the lender banks of the amendments is a clear indication of the banks continued support, thus allowing Steniel to build upon its existing customer base focusing on better service, quality and delivery, while at the same time seeking new customers and building its relationships. As such, Steniel now has the financial structure and support to implement its medium term strategies and action plans of further building its business and servicing its customers from a sound financial base.

Genesis Goldi D. Golingan, President & CEO, said: *"We sincerely thank our lender banks for the continued support that they have shown to Steniel. Now that the amendments have been approved, Steniel is well positioned to better service its customers and to improve its operations, particularly in Luzon, where trading conditions have been difficult due to competition and pricing issues. With our lenders and shareholders' support, we are confident that we will be able to maintain and improve all of our operations in the near term"*

Steniel is the leading corrugated box business in the country. It is the only box making company that boasts of manufacturing facilities strategically situated in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Annual capacity is estimated at approximately 100,000 metric tons and it is the manufacturer of choice of most multinational companies. Steniel's clientele includes those engaged in the consumer business, food and beverage, electronics and semiconductors, furniture manufacturing, and agricultural sectors.

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Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL CONCILIATION AND MEDIATION BOARD
Department of Labor and Employment
Intramuros, Manila

11 February 2003

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

The National Conciliation and Mediation Board (NCMB) invites all interested and accredited IT service agency to pre-qualify and submit sealed bid on March 14, 2003, 2:30 p.m. for the maintenance of the following IT equipment:

8 units	LAPTOP
2 units	SERVER
24 units	DESKTOP COMPUTER
34 units	PRINTER
1 unit	SCANNER
18 units	UPS

Pre-qualification requirements may be obtained at the Office of the PBAC Chairman, LMCD, NCMB, G/F, DOLE Building, Intramuros, Manila from **February 17-20, 2003.**

Bidder's Bond is required equivalent 2.5% of Bid in Cash/Manager's Check/GSIS Surety (original).

The NCMB have the right to reject any or all bids to waive any informality or defects therein, or accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the government.

For inquiries, please contact the following telephone numbers: 527-9806/338-9545.

(Sgd.) RACHEL E. ANGELES
BAC, Chairman

(PDI - Feb. 13, 14 & 15, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Ma. Criselda Perez

Rolando Navelgas

Angie Sabordo

Jason Amurao

Notice is hereby given to the Public that pictures of persons appeared above are no longer connected with **VICTOR HARDWARE** Effective *(1) November 7, 2002* Ma. Criselda Perez *(2) November 9, 2002* Rolando Navelgas *(3) November 15, 2002* Angie Sabordo *(4) December 13, 2002* Jason Amurao Respectively.

Any transactions entered by them on behalf of the company will not be honored and are not valid.

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Republic of the Philippines
MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Metro Manila

INVITATION FOR CONSULTING SERVICES

The Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) invites eligible Filipino consulting firms duly registered with the Department of Trade and Industry or the Securities and Exchange Commission for the purpose of drawing a long list from which a selection shall be made for the provision of consulting services for **the Engineering and Design Services for the Proposed Upgrading of Runway13/31.**

The selected Consultant who shall be screened and evaluated by the MIAA Prequalification, Evaluation and Award Committee (MIAA-PEAC) in accordance with procedures of the NEDA Guidelines on the Procurement of Consulting Services for Government Projects (Implementing Rules and Regulations of Executive Order No. 164), shall be responsible in the preparation of Preliminary and Detailed Design for the proposed upgrading of Runway13/31 and other connecting taxiways, preparation and submittal of general conditions, technical specifications, bid schedule and estimates. It is a must that the Consultant has extensive experience in engineering design for upgrading of existing airfield facilities and familiar with ICAO standards.

Consultants who wish to offer their services are requested to submit an official transmittal letter/statement together with their duly accomplished and notarized prequalification statements, as provided under Appendix A of the NEDA Guidelines, not later than February 28, 2003 at the Pavements and Grounds Division, MIAA Engineering Building, MIA Road, Pasay City during official business hours only. Consultant's Prequalification Forms may also be secured from the Pavement and Grounds Division Office from February 17-21, 2003 upon presentation of this advertisement and official letter of intent. Interested foreign consultants with extensive experience in the type of service and duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission may associate themselves with legitimate Filipino Consultants and must have proper authorization to practice their profession locally with appropriate Philippine professional regulatory agencies.

(Sgd.) ELPIDIO L. MENDOZA
Chairman
MIAA-PEAC

(PDI--Feb. 14 & 20, 2003)

JOB MARKET
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HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG FUND) is inviting Contractors/ Suppliers to a public bidding for the following requirements for Y2003:

	Particulars	AGENCY BUDGET CEILING	Cost of Bid Documents (Non-Refundable)	Schedule of Pre-Bid Conference
I.	Janitorial Services	P 9,124,600.00	P 3,000.00	Feb. 25, 2003 2:00 PM
II.	Security Services	P 24,532,200.00	P 5,000.00	Feb. 26, 2003 2:00 PM
III.	Postage/ Freight Services	P 1,680,000.00	P 1,000.00	Feb. 28, 2003 9:00 AM
IV.	Preventive Maintenance for Airconditioning Units	P 899,400.00	P 500.00	Feb. 28, 2003 2:00 PM
V.	Supply and Maintenance of Ornamental (Indoor) Plants	P 775,400.00	P 500.00	Mar. 3, 2003 2:00 PM

Eligibility Requirements, Terms of Reference and Bid forms may be obtained from the Procurement Section, Task Force-General Services starting **February 14, 2003.**

Submission of Eligibility Requirements & opening of bids for each requirement shall be discussed during the pre-bid conference which will be conducted at the 6th Floor, Rm. 602, HDMF Multi-Purpose Hall, The Atrium of Makati Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City.

The HDMF reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any informality or accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the government. Further, the HDMF assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for expenses or losses that may be incurred in participating in this bidding.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Mr. Jose Maria M. Diaz/ Mr. Cesar V. Racoma at 811-4262, 811-4279 or visit our Corporate Website at http://pag-ibig-fund.com. or e-mail us at hdmfgpis@info.com.ph.

(Sgd.) EMMA LINDA B. FARIA
Senior Vice-President, Technical Support Group
Chairman, BAC-GS

(PDI - Feb. 14 & 22, 2003)

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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Insurance Commission
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Fax No. 5221434
E-mail: oic@i-manila.com.ph

The INSURANCE COMMISSION (IC) is inviting all prospective INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATIONS SOLUTIONS PROVIDERS to submit an integrated solutions proposal for the requirements of the IC. The solutions should include the following only:

- Licensing Information System;
- Enterprise Server;
- Network;
- Workstations; and
- Licenses for various software/utilities.

The IC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Government. IC assumed no obligation for whatever loses that might be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bids.

For more information, please see or call the BUDGET DIVISION, 2nd Floor, Insurance Commission, United Nations Avenue, Manila at 524-6097.

Interested bidders may acquire the PREQUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS from the 17th of February 2003 until the 19th of February 2003 at the same office between 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. only. The submission of prequalification documents shall be on or before the **25th of February 2003** by **5:00 p.m.** at the said office. Only prequalified bidders will be informed in writing to purchase the REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL/TERMS OF REFERENCE for the computing requirements of the agency.

THE COMMISSIONER
INSURANCE COMMISSION

OBITUARIES

BALLET MANILA
Mourns the passing away of their
Artistic Adviser
And former Artistic Director

AGERICO (ERIC) V. CRUZ

June 6, 1940 – February 12, 2003
Who peacefully joined our Creator
on the 12th of February 2003
at the age of 62.

We join the bereaved family
and relatives in prayers for the eternal
repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Funeraria Paz
inside Manila Memorial Park.
Cremation will be on Sunday,
February 16 at 3:00 p.m.

The Management and Employees
of
COAST PACIFIC MANUFACTURING CORPORATION
wish to announce with deepest regret the death of

PHILIP G. LO

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

on February 12, 2003.

His wife **Cristina** and children, brothers and sisters,
relatives and friends mourn his passing and request prayers
for his eternal rest.

His body lies in state at the Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes,
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City.

Interment will be on **February 20, 2003 (Thursday)**
at the Carreta Cemetery, Gen. Maxilom Avenue, Cebu City
after the **8:00 a.m. Holy Mass.**

Please omit flowers.

AGERICO V. CRUZ

Dancer, Choreographer, Designer and Retired Professor of U.P.

Son of Prof. Juan L. Cruz (†) and Natividad V. Cruz (†)

Peacefully passed away to be with the Lord on February 12, 2003.

His mortal body lies in state at La Funeraria Paz, Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque

His loving brother **ARTURO V. CRUZ** (†); his loving sisters **AMPARO C. ROXAS, AIDA C. MOJICA** and **ALMA V. CRUZ**; brothers-in-law **ROMEO G. ROXAS** and **EDUARDO C. MOJICA**; nephews and nieces, grandnephews and grandnieces, relatives and friends request everyone to rejoice with us at his return to his Creator.

Cremation will be on Sunday, February 16, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. at Manila Memorial Park after the 1:30 p.m. service.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

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Dr. FABIAN L. MEDINA

Peacefully passed away
on February 11, 2003 at the age of 77.

His wife **EDITA**, together with children **Lilian**, **Alan**, **Stanley**, **Aida**, and **Patrick**, request the pious readers, especially their relatives and friends, to join them in praying for his eternal bliss in heaven. His body lies in state at the Mt. Carmel Chapel, Mt. Carmel Church, Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City.

Further announcements will be announced tomorrow.

NATIVIDAD D. SELUDO

Died peacefully on February 8, 2003
at the age of 69.

Her bereaved husband Reynaldo; children Joey and Opne, Ronald and Lisa, Naressia and Max Jr., Jun-jun and Angelita and Riza; her four grandchildren Rey-an, Mark John, Mary Joy and Jay R request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at St. Peter Memorial Chapels, 296 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, February 15, 2003, at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, after the 8 a.m. Mass.

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INTERMENT NOTICE

Name	Date of Interment	Time	Place of Interment	Place of Wake
FELICIANA GIL CONCEPCION	Feb 14	12:00 PM	Holy Gardens Memorial Park, Angono, Rizal	#65 Quezon Ave., Angono, Rizal
ISABELO S. SABERDO	Feb. 15	2:00 PM	Holy Gardens Memorial Park, Taytay, Rizal	#04 J.P. Rizal Guadalupe Viejo Makati City

Send or post your e-condolences, e-prayers & e-masses @
www.holygardens.com
E-mail address sales@holygardens.com

"From darkness let the light shine!"
Genesis 1:3

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12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Tels 715-1025, 715-1031; 715-1027
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C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City. Tels 747-8599; 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan. Tels. (0785) 522-3451; 522-2128; (0917) 434-9976
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DR. ROY PICCIO VILLASOR

Died in the Grace of our Lord on February 13, 2003
at the age of 83.

He is survived by his loving wife **Aurora "Muchit" Mejia Villasor**; children and their spouses, **Rogi** & **Rosarie**, **Mara** & **Gabby**, **Rean** and **Dina**. Grandchildren **Anya**, **Bea**, **Regina**, **Raffy**, **Arianna**, **Angela**, **Hana**, **Roy Thomas**. His loving family request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the
CAPILLA DE SAN FRANCISCO,
Santuario de San Antonio Parish,
Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on ***SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2003*** at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City, after the Funeral Mass at 2:00 p.m. at the Santuario de San Antonio Parish Church, Forbes, Park, Makati City.

"I am the Resurrection and the life.
He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies;
And whoever believes in Me will never die."

JOSE DAEZ DARILAG

Peacefully joined his Creator
on February 11, 2003 at the age of 87.

His loving wife **Segunda**; sister **Marciana**; children **Arsenia** and **Segundo**, **Milagros** and **Armando**, **Roberto** and **Estela**, **Irene** and **Emmanuel**, **Carlos** and **Anita**, **Ray**, **Julie** and **Gilbert**; grandchildren **Carlito** (†), **Aurea** and **Dong**, **Lyn** and **Jet**, **Marilou** and **Ron**, **Jay** and **Joyce**, **Lynn** and **Bryan**, **Bob**, **Roehl Joy**, **Robert** and **Ronna**, **Roy Martin**, **Jojo**, **Diana** and **Angelo**, **Jomar**, **Carmela**, **Arvin**, **John Raymond**, **Zayda**, **Zhar**, **Zandro**; great grandchildren **Patrick**, **Patricia**, **Nathan**, **Julie**, **Gabriel**, **Mia**, **Ava**, **Lexis** and **Gelo**; and all relatives and friends request the pious readers to join in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at his residence at 169 Tagalag, Valenzuela City.

Interment will be on Sunday, February 16, 2003 at Sacred Heart Memorial Park, Veinte Reales, Valenzuela City after 3:00 p.m. Mass at San Diego de Alcala Parish Church, Valenzuela City.

ENRIQUE KENGKENG M. DAYRIT, JR.

Joined his Creator on February 9, 2003
at the age of 64.

His loving wife **THELMA**; children **Leo and Theresa**; **Enrique III and Eloisa**; **Michael and Theda**; **Othelo and Lyn**; **Erwin and Thricia**; **grandchildren Jonees, Elias, Enrique IV, Esperanza, Kenneth, Cheztine and Bea**; brothers and sisters; **Celia, Butch, Ofelia, Roger, Juliet, Ginno, Gemmo, Freddie (†), Carmen (†)** and **Elba (†)**; relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Our Lady of Grace Chapel, Grace Park, Caloocan City.

Interment will be on Thursday, Feb. 13, 2003, 9:00 a.m., at Eternal Garden, Balintawak, Quezon City.

"Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it much as dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love Him."
I Corinthians 2:9

"The Lord is my strength and my shield in whom my heart trusted and found help. So my heart rejoices; with my song I praise my God..."
Psalm 28:7

JOSE P. QUERIMIT

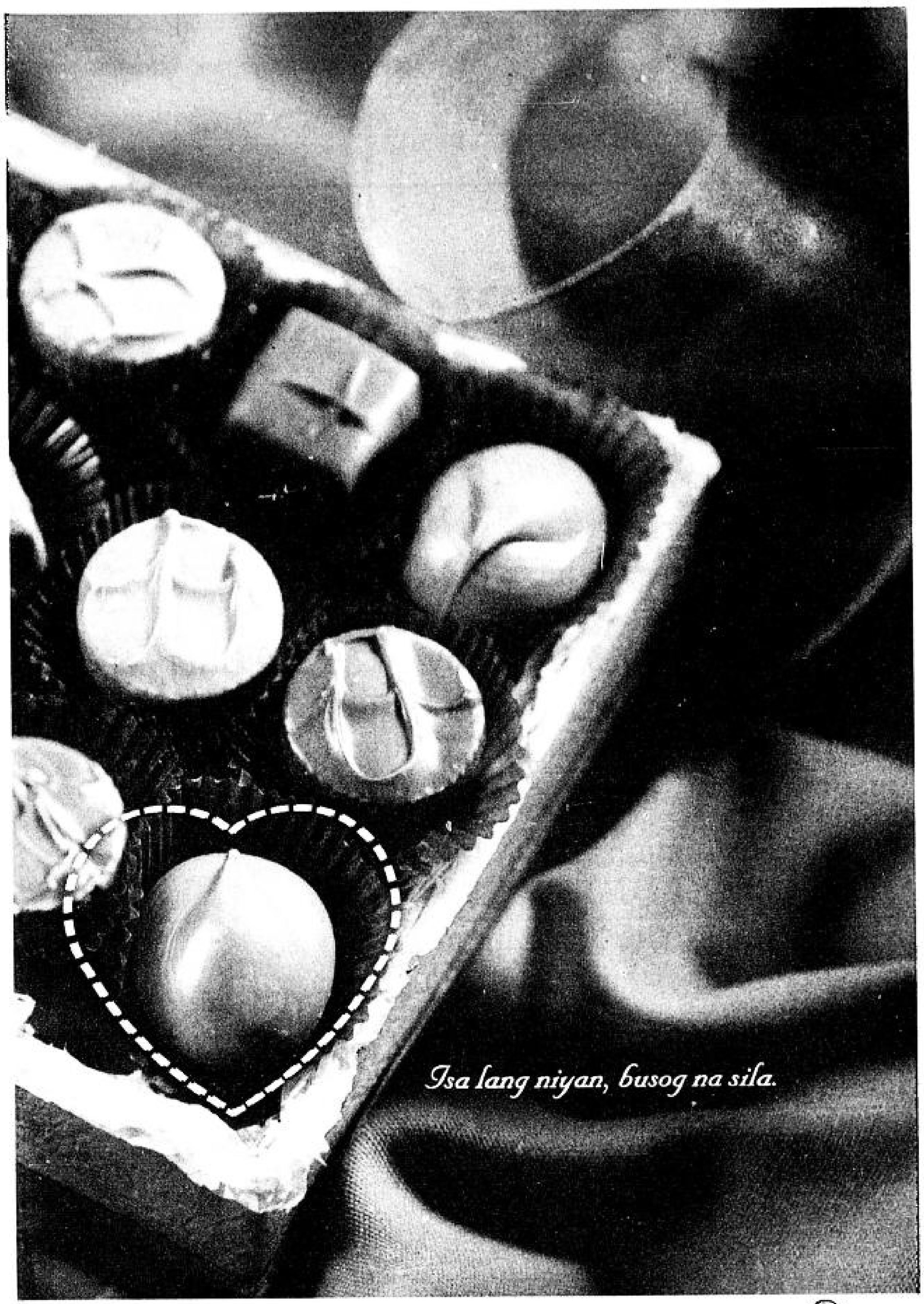
of Talogtog, Mangaldan, Pangasinan

90 years old

Born July 4, 1912
Died February 12, 2003

Survived by his wife **Anita Madrid**; children **Erlinda Beltran**, **Fernando** and **Erlinda Palsimon**; grandchildren **Joseph**, **Joseph Manuel**, **Malinda**, **Henry** and great grandchildren.

His body lies in state at their residence. Interment will be held on Saturday morning of February 15, 2003.



Usong-uso mamigay ng tsokolate 'pag Valentine's Day. Pero sa presyo ng kahit isang pirasong tsokolate, isang buong araw na'ng pang-kain ng batang mahihirap.

Feeling Valentine's? Magbigay na rin sa Children's Hour. Just one hour's worth of your salary can help street children, child workers, and victims of sexual and physical abuse.

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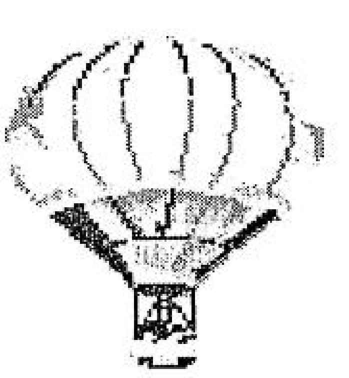

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Asia braces for Iraq war

SINGAPORE—Asia's economies are bracing for the fallout of a possible prolonged war in Iraq—soaring fuel prices, rising unemployment and a new threat of terrorist attacks that will drive away investors.

If hostilities do break out, a swift and decisive conflict with few civilian casualties would be the best-case scenario for the region.

Months of uncertainty about a possible war has frozen hiring and choked off much-needed investment—and could ultimately prove more damaging than a short conflict, analysts from Sydney to Taipei have said.

What Asian policymakers fear most is a long and messy war that spreads beyond Iraq, with US troops fighting door to door while civilian casualties mount and oil prices spiral, said Sailesh Jha, senior regional economist for DBS Bank in Singapore.

"If it's an ugly war that spills over to other parts of the Middle East and consumption growth tanks in the United States, forget about investment," Jha said. "That would bode very badly for Asia, and you could see recessionary conditions in China."

The Asian Development Bank's Economic Monitoring Unit revised its growth figures this week based on the uncertainty surrounding Iraq, which it said had pushed oil prices up 30 percent since June and deflated business and consumer confidence.

Even without a war, Japan's already weak consumer spending had it forecasting economic growth of 0.6 percent for the year beginning in April.

A four- to six-week war, with oil prices between US$30 and US$40, would likely shave one percent off Japan's GDP growth, said Tsutomu Sugiura, director of Tokyo's Marubeni Research Institute. *AP*

Business sentiment worsens in Japan

TOKYO—Japan got a dose of gloomy economic news a day before the release of October-December gross domestic product figures with data showing on Thursday that companies became more pessimistic during that period.

The business survey index (BSI) for the October-December quarter stood at minus 23, compared to minus 22 in the previous three months, according to a survey by the Economic and Social Research Institute, an arm of the Cabinet Office.

The data is a reminder of the poor economic performance in the final three months of last year. Most economists expect fourth-quarter GDP to have shrunk from the previous three months, marking an end to the country's nascent recovery.

"We do not see any improvement in corporate sentiment so we must watch the trend more closely," said Yoshihiko Senoh, director of the government's department of business statistics.

The outlook BSI, which shows firms' expectations of the coming months, was slightly better but still in negative territory with both the January-March and April-June indices coming in at minus 19.

The previous outlook BSI had also been negative at minus 15 for October-December and minus one for January-March, although two straight quarters with double-digit negative predictions are rare.

The BSI subtracts the percentage of firms saying domestic economic conditions were unfavorable from those reporting favorable conditions.

The survey was conducted on Dec. 25, with 4,161 companies responding.

Despite the generally weak figures, the data had a few bright spots.

Companies planned to reduce spending on capital expenditure by 3.2 percent in the October-March period against the same period in the previous year—better than a 13.0-percent reduction in the April-September period.

That trend is in line with machinery orders data released on Wednesday which showed October-December orders rising 0.3 percent quarter-on-quarter, compared with the Cabinet Office's forecast for a 6.5-percent decline. *Reuters*

McDonald's Jan. sales fall

OAK BROOK, Ill.—McDonald's Corp., which posted its first-ever quarterly loss last month, said on Wednesday that comparable sales fell 2.4 percent in January, as the company faced a competitive fast-food environment in the United States.

The world's largest restaurant chain has been engaged in a fierce US price war against No. 2 hamburger rival Burger King and seen increased competition from "fast-casual" restaurants offering more elaborate sandwiches and other fare. McDonald's on Jan. 23 posted a fourth-quarter net loss of $343.8 million as it absorbed the cost of closing hundreds of restaurants.

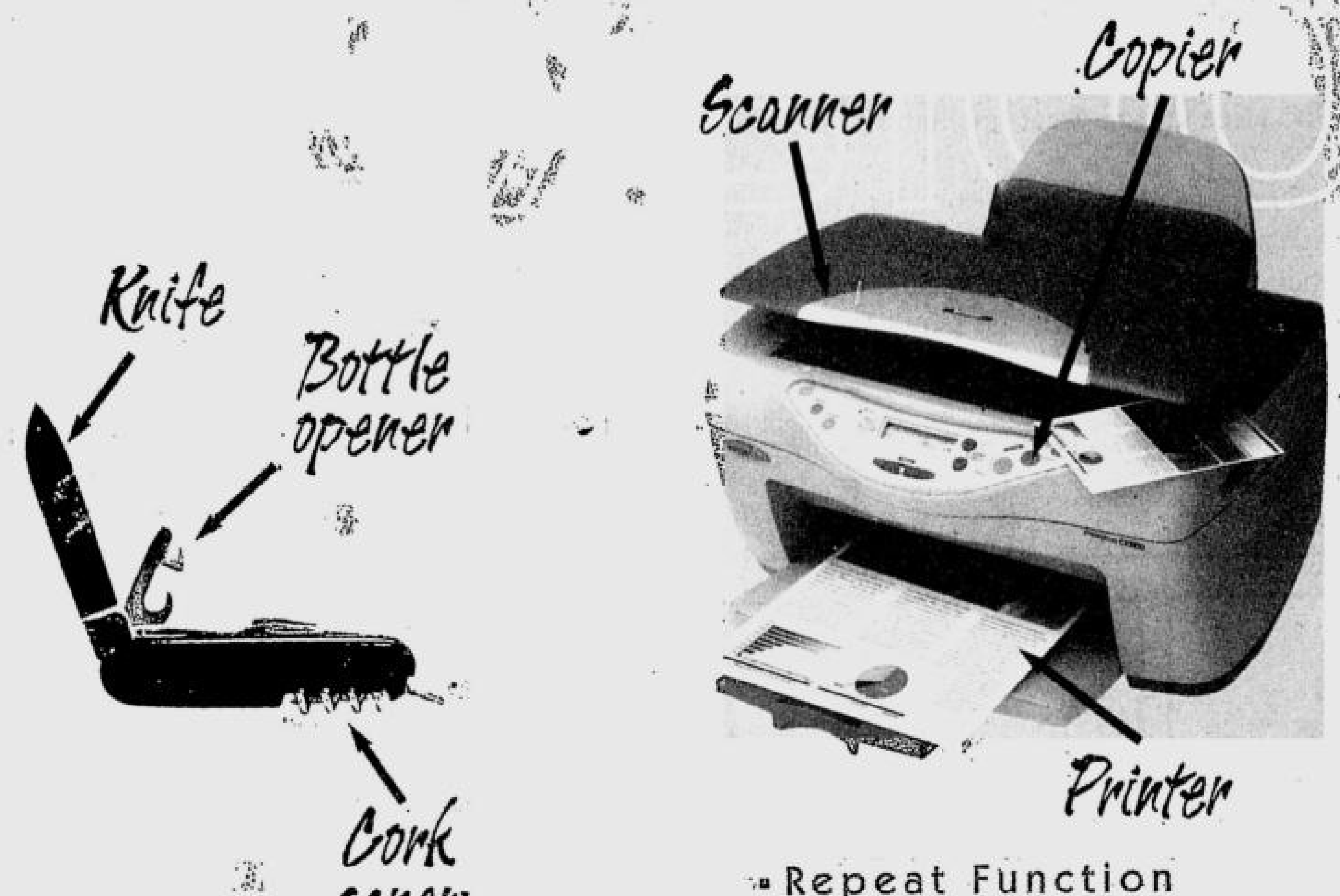
In the United States, McDonald's largest market, comparable sales, or those at stores open at least 13 months, were down 0.5 percent. Those in Europe, its second-biggest market, dropped 3.8 percent. The comparisons exclude the impact of foreign currency translations.

The monthly sales report follows the practice of fast-food rivals Wendy's International Inc., Yum Brands Inc. and other big restaurant operators that provide monthly data to investors.

Total systemwide sales in the month, including those at franchised and company-owned restaurants, rose 5 percent to $3.3 billion.

In the Asia-Pacific region, same-store sales fell 7.2 percent. Same-store sale in Latin America showed an increase, rising 5.1 percent before currency impact.

The sales update comes just weeks after McDonald's decided to stop providing quarterly earnings forecasts, which had been closely watched by analysts. *Reuters*



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Multi-function: multi- pref. Many; much; multiple: multicolored. More than one: multiparous. More than two. Fŭngk' sh ən- n. The action for which a person or thing is particularly fitted or employed. Biology- The physiological activity of an organ or body part. Computer Science- a procedure within an application.

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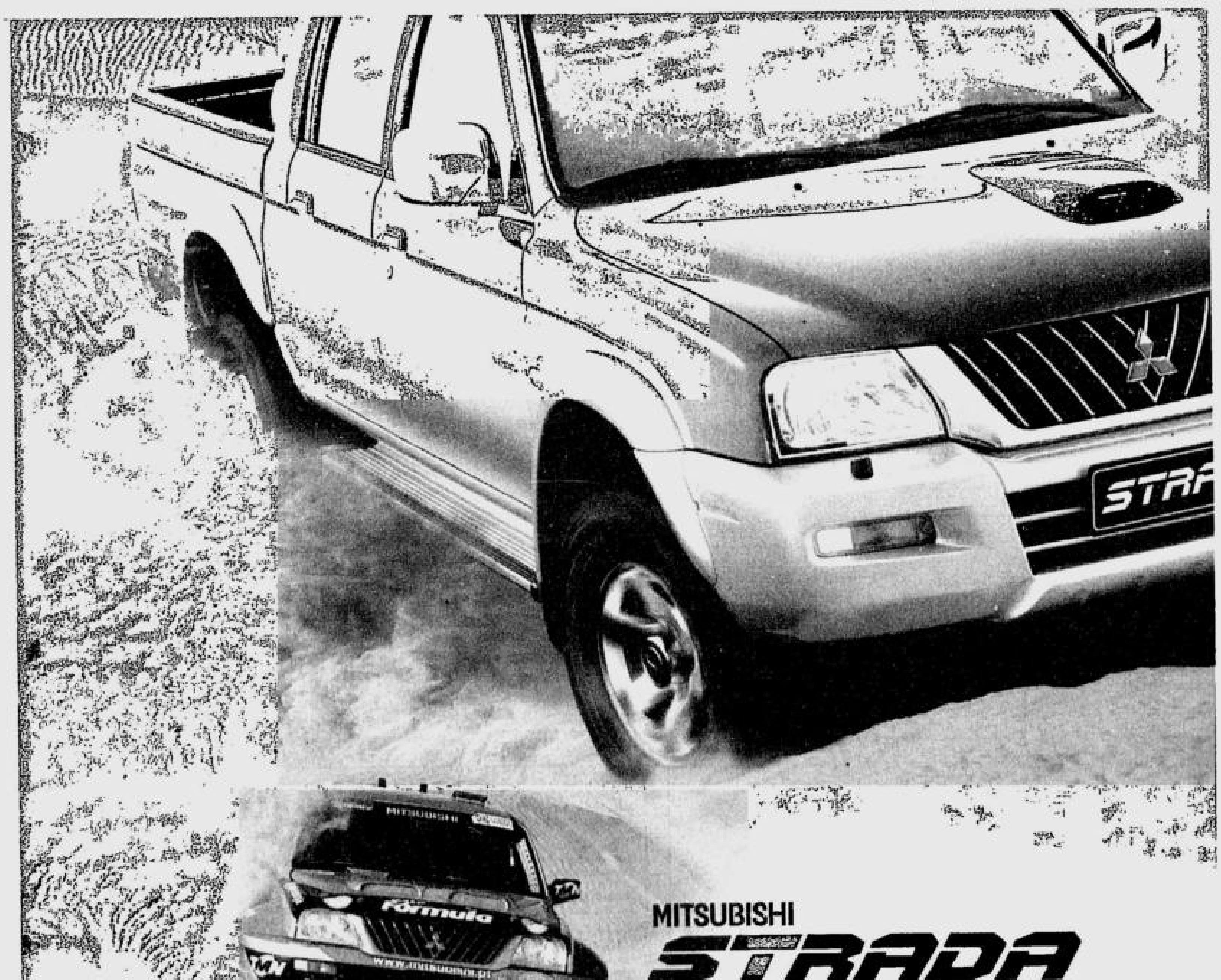

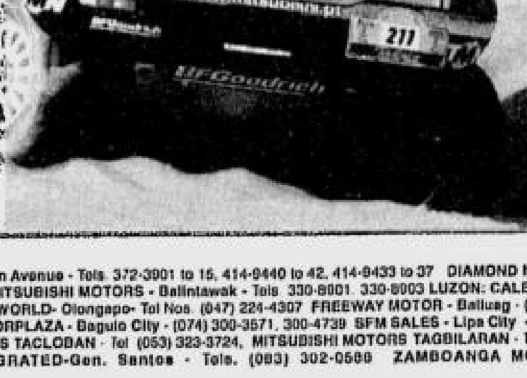

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Sweet Nothings...

**TO MY DEARLY
BELOVED
GERT, ERIC
AND
REGINA**

MY UNCONDITIONAL LOVE
TO YOU ALL!
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

DAD

Dearest Kimy,

To the girl who smiles at me every time I see her,
Who never gets mad at me whenever I do
something wrong,
Who does the driving when I am tired,
Who feeds me and treats me like a king,

God knows I am the luckiest man to have found
Such a beautiful and amazing girl,
Much more than the girl of my dreams.
Thank you for loving me as I am, and for
always being there.

Happy Valentine's Day and I Love You!

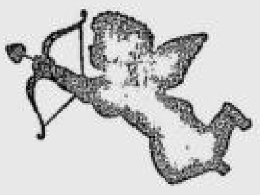
Patrick

Look inside our
hearts and you'll find
a world full of love.
Happy Valentine's
Day, Dad.

**Love,
Katti, Krizia, Kyle
and Kyra**

NENE,

CUPID DID A GREAT
JOB IN FINDING YOU
FOR ME



BOB

MOMMY,

WE ARE SURE DADDY IS
WISHING YOU HAPPY
VALENTINES!

JIM, JOHNNIE, JESSE AND DEHNA

**Happy Valentine's
Day, Dadu Peter.**

Love,
Sam, Booger
and Mamu.

Happy Valentine's Day
Alvin.

I Love You!

Love, Keren

---

*Conrado &
Edna Agustin*

*Angels are watching
over you when times
are good and stressed.*

*Their wings wrap
gently around you,
whispering you are
loved and blessed.*

I Love You!

Chona

JO

*WITH YOU IT IS
VALENTINES EVERY DAY*

_NANNIE

CHING

LOVE AND
KISSES

BOBOY

My dearest **Trisha,**

*Each day I love you
more today more
than yesterday*

HAPPY VALENTINE MY LOVE

Love,
Willy

Dearerst Mommy Anne,

We love you so much!

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

Love:
Coco,
Earth & Winona

Zonny.
What matters
most in my
life is you.
I will love
you always!
John-John

Rica (RCR),
**WILL YOU
MARRY ME?**
Rommel (RML)

---

to mom, kuya, poy, issa, michelle & KIKO,
i'm so blessed having wonderful people in my life. i may have not shown each one of you my deepfelt love, God knows how you move my world. happy heart's day.

I LOVE YOU ALL,
masoy

MICKEY -
I wake up each morning
with a smile knowing
that I have been blessed
with a wonderful person
in my life. Each night,
before I go to sleep I
thank GOD for the best
gift he could ever give
me - YOU. I love you
with all my heart
— TINA

Mary,
Thank you for all your
love. I pray for your
complete healing and hope
for peace of mind you
direly need.
Rest assured that i'll
always be here to love
you, till med and beyond.
Happy Valentine's Day!
will-lovable

Dearest ***Jamie,***
SURPRISE MY
BABY BOY!!!
Couldn't ask for
anything else than to
be with you this
Valentine!
MWA!
I LOVE YOU
ALWAYS MY
SNOOKUMZ!!!
Your ***Bebe Girl*** **=)**

Lorie A.,
I'll give you a
reason for loving,
I'll give you a
reason for living.

"Happy
Valentine"

Jed G.

ANGEL,
In you I feel in love,
you reciprocate the
sweetest success I
ever had.
I Love You
So Much
Xtian

TO MY DADDY ANJO, iy w8d 4 yrs; iv takn
chncs n rltnshps & cryd wen tings
wmt fyn. I tot wud nvr find d ryt
prsn 2 luv until I met u. i wnt
2 tel u dat be- In wd u s smply d
bst way 4 me 2 spnd my lif.
dou we cnt b 2gder ryt
nw, we r 2gedr n r tots
& memoris. m hir wd ol
of my hart, lukin ahed 2
dat tym wen i cn c u&b wd
u agen. I want u 2 knw dat
I luv u 2day & 2 ol of my 2morows .Happy
Hearts Day! FROM UR MOMMY CLAUDINE

Shirley A.,

I thought I will never find someone whom I can share my feelings with, but my life changed when we met. You opened my heart again making me feel that happiness still exist. I try to find words to express the feelings in my heart, I want to show you that I care, I'll tell you that I love you and I'll tell you why and how. You are the one I've given myself to and you will be the last. You are the one I want for life and that is no lie. You are the one who brightens my day and whom I wake up for each and everyday. I care and love you not only for what you are but also for what I am when I am with you.

Love, *Gilbert*

WE LOVE YOU
DAD ERIC,
HAPPY V-DAY
CJ, ECA,
HENRIC, TAY

SAM,
EACH DAY WITH
YOU BECOMES
A VALENTINE!
LOVE YOU! —
CARLA

THANKS FOR
YOUR SELFLESS
LOVE DAD JIM

LOVE YOU,
JIMBOY,
JANPAUL &
MARIQUIT

MPS (BNBK)
MULVGST!
THANK YOU
FOR MAKING
MY LIFE
COMPLETE
LOVE YOU —
CLC

POCHI — W/
GOD'S BLESSINGS
MAY OUR LOVE
LASTS FOREVER

**HAPPY 1ST YEAR
ANNIVERSARY, LOVE YOU
MICHIKO**

To ALFRED,
Thank you for all the
love, care,
understanding and
support you've given
to me, your the best.
I Love You!!!
HAPPY VALENTINE!
Love,
MAMA

To: Adri, Clark, Pam,
Irish, JC, Leonard,
Jonas, Jason and
Johann,
Happy Valentine's
Day! God Bless...
Tita Mimay
& Tita Lala

To: Tatay Jim
& Nanay Naty,
Happy Valentine's Day!
We love you both so
much, mwah!
Montesines Family

Beth,
Because of your love, I have found new joys that were not mine before; new stars have lightened up my sky with glories growing more and more. There is only one happiness in my life, to love you and beloved by you. You are my inspiration, my life, my everything...

I love you!

*Always
& forever,
8 12 5*

ANGEL,
Although I don't always
tell you in so many
words...
I LOVE YOU IN SO
MANY WAYS.
HAPPY
VALENTINE'S
DAY
RHANDY

Lynne,
*What ever
happen 2 us
yesterday
2day nd
2morow my
heart
belongs 2u*
Pangit

Richelle,
I just want 2 tell
you that I want to
stay here forever
with you.
MY
SPECIAL
SOMEONE

**TO
PAZ/TRACY:**

**I
LOVE
YOU!**

Mahal kong
asawang *Joy*,
Sana manganak ka
na. Ayayaten ka!
**Happy
Valentine's
Day.**
Adonis

To my wife Ellen,
I know I have many shortcomings to you. I know you knew that I sometimes lied to you and break your heart. But there's one thing you should know. You are the only person with whom I want to share my heart, my soul, and my whole life. Thanks for being understanding, thanks for being you. I love you very much honey. Happy Valentine!
Your husband,
Gerry

To my Angels,
(Tin, Ning and Joy)
Nothing compares the
true friendship I felt to all
of you. Through hardships
and difficulties you're there
on my side...
Thank you for the
inspiring love.
Happy Valentine
I love you,
Emy

Michelle Viray
Malate

I'm so blessed 4
having a nice and
beautiful friend!

Jimmy

Gud mrng my cute
Angel!
Love you! Mahal kita!
Kaluguran dacal
HAPPY VALENTINE!!!
Mwah, mwah, mwah,
mwah, mwah, mwah,
mwah, mwah, mwah
mwah, mwah, mwah.
Mmmmmmmmmmmmm
From your sweet angel.

Rizza Gregorio,
I LOVE YOU, period.
You LOVE ME period.
PERIOD is really a nice word
***Happy Valentines
and Wedding Day!!!***
(Feb. 15, 2003)
Alex Lim

To: Nay Cynthia Clavio
No one can surpass a
mothers love,
you are a
gift from
heaven above.
I love you very much.
Happy Valentines Day.
Love & prayer,
Lily

Jay, Rina & Tery,
Everyday is
Valentine's
Day for us.
I love you.
Mommy Pat

To My Lynet,
Thank you for all the
love you have given
me. Happy
Valentines!
I love you
**Dick, Shervin &
Shedrik Gutierrez**

Nolly,
Thank you 4 filling
up d empty spaces
in my heart...
**Happy
Luv's Day!**
Mariefe

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Baby,
Thank you for
all the love, trust &
respect you've given.
I love you always!
Happy Valentine's!
Sweetcakes

To: **Thess Tupaz,**
*I just won't let this
day pass it away
without letting you
know how
much i care
& love you
Tita, Happy
Valentines Day
Much love,*
Lily

Rea,
You are my
dream come
true the one
i've waited for...
From now on until the
end of time
I will love no one
but you...
**Happy Valentine
Swthart!!!**

Honey D.A.
*Loving you is
the second most
treasured thing
in my life, you
are the first.*

**Happy
Valentine's
Day!**

**Love,
Papy R.**

To: **Ka Minlong, Ate
Alice, Ka Danny, Ka
Benny, Ka Belen, Ka
Dory, Ka Raffy, Boyet,
Malou, Cesar, Tess,
Ferdie, Ria, Cely
and Epharim.**

Wishing you all
love and happiness
this Valentine's Day..
From: **Beth**

RED,
You've
always
made
my heart fly so high.
You're my
everything ... I'll be
with you soon. Be
my Valentine.
luv, **MYE**

**To: Annie, Emil, Chelo,
Sharon, Lito, Shalu,
John Mark, Arnel Dolly,
Belle, Rey, Badette**

**Wishing you all love
and happiness this
Valentine's Day...**

**From: Tita Vangie
and Tita Beth**

Mama Ely & Mama Marlyn,
You mold us into responsible good & God-fearing children. You've gone through ups & downs & we often forgot to say Thank you & we love you. Every woman has the capacity to be called a mother, but it takes someone very special to be a MAMA, and you are very special to us your children

Happy Valentine's Day!

Love,
Tata Ian, Tong boy & Iris,
Ada & Nibaysahl, Ivy,
Ivory, Pam, Meg, Ikay

My Dearest Honey,
I just want to tell you that from the very start of our relationship, it's you I want to grow old with, you are my life, my anchor, my everything. I will always keep falling in-love with you.
Happy Valentine!
I love you
— Honey "27"

To Our Darling
Sheen and Sam,
The best meaningful
in our life is YOU.
You are my
STRENGTH,
my HAPPINESS
and my LIFE.
We love you,
Daddy and Mommy

**Daddy Mahr &
Mommy Fely,**

*You are the greatest God's
Miracle in our life. Hope
you will be in the best of
health throughout the years*
***We Love You and Happy
Heart's Day***
Mahar, Mara & Kano

To **Nanay
at Tatay,**
Maligayang Araw
ng mga Puso!
Salamat po sa lahat.
Nagmamahal,
**Arnold
& Jhonna**

To **Mon & Dad,**
**Happy
Valentine!**
We love you!
From:
**Richie,
Hannie,
Mean &
Angel**

Inday,

***Happy Valentine!
Thanks for the
patience and
understanding.***

*Love yah,
Sweety*

Auntie Moding,

***Happy
Valentine's
Day!***

We love you!

***Paolo
& Pearl***

***Lolo Nemesio
Dacanay,***
***Happy
Valentine's Day
Lolo!
I love you.
Ingat lagi!***
*Love,
Paolo
Lorenzo*

Our Dear Paolo,
Happy
Valentine's
Day!
We love you!
*Mommy,
Daddy &
Pearl*

Dear Dad & Mom,

*Thank you
for all the
beautiful
things you
gaveto me.*
I Love You
R 'Roxrio' R

Sweet Nothings...

To: Nay
Cynthia Clavio,
No one can surpass a mother's love, you are a gift from heaven above, I love you very much.
Happy Valentine's Day!
love & prayers, Lily

GAPA,
I AM
LOOKING
FOR WARD
TO A LIFETIME WITH YOU.
I LOVE YOU ... HAPPY VALENTINE'S!!!
GING-GING

To: Aubrey of Bataan and Lance of Marikina City
Happy Valentine's Day!
From,
Angie

Rav,
My heart longs for you every second of each day. Waiting for the moment that you'd come back. And I will welcome you with open arms.
Happy Valentine's Day!
Love,
07/07/97

To my loving wife,
Tracy Ann,
Each morning as I awaken, you're the reason I smile, you're the reason I love. It's our second Valentine's, Hon! I just hope we'd last. Thank you for everything you've done for me. Like I said before... DON'T LEAVE ME!! He, he. *HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY BABY!* I love you so much! SYON!
Lysander22

Jericho Fuerte
Thanks for the tete-a-tete that we had. Next time let's sit and drink to that. Enjoy the rest of your stay in the country.
Happy
Valentine's Day!
Chona Agustin

Carefully, I stepped into this small
and humble room
Lifeless, I mumbled... yet
Abhorrence never entered my sanity
Sensational! I shamefully admitted
September 25th, the day I'll never
forget!
Impossible to ignore, I uncovered
how
Fabulous they really are! Not to
mention, faithful... too bad
"classifieds" spells with one "F"
Intact... yep! That's how things
should be and so are we
End has come... How I wish "E" is
not included.
Dimmer, every corner of this
"lifeless" room turned.
Satincal, I may be if I'd say it's ok.
To all of you guys... you know
who you are... Thank you! memories
will always remain,
VENUS
HAPPY HEARTS DAY!

To my one & lovely wife Cathy,
Happy 28th Birthday.
Happy 4th Wedding Anniversary.
Happy Valentine's Day!
With all our life, WE LOVE YOU!
Dad & Pia Alzona

Shenna,
Happy Valentine!
I Love you!!!
Ramil

Liezl,
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!
No words can express my sincerest love for you. Thanks for the sweet thoughts and trying to be patient in everything. Above all, thanks for being YOU!
I love you!
Forever yours,
"Sweet"

Daddy Ambo,
Thank you so much for the love,
Happy Valentine's Day!
Ayayaten ka Lakay!
Love,
Mommy Aileen, Paolo & Pearl

CHER DONDY,
HAPPY HEART'S DAY My Love. I'm Sorry.
KARL

Nerie,
Happy Valentines to the GREATEST Mama...
LOVE you so much...
Ysa, Hanne,
Jotoy, Utoy, Papi

Thank you for
loving me **Prince,**
HAPPY VALENTINE!
I LOVE YOU!
WW

Aking Taburnok,
Ikaw ang katuparan ng aking bawat pangarap. Nawa'y maging matatag tayo sa mga pagsubok na darating sa ating landas. Ikaw ang una at huli kong mamahalin.
Mahal kita,
09

Mother Lulu,
There are times when you think of giving up but still you stood by us and like a real mother guided us and never let us down through the years. Thank you for the love and support.
Happy Valentine!
Emy, Ning, Tin and Joy
Atrium Branch

To: Mendoza Family of San Guillermo, San Antonio Hts., Q.C.
Happy Valentine!
and we love you forever.
Nonoy, Dhel
Anton & Bianca

Ma Carmen,
Thank you for being my wife.
HAPPY HEART'S DAY!
Please pay for this ha.
Love,
Leo

Hon,
There's no enough words to describe how happy I am when you & Bea came into my life.
I Love You!
Sweet

Dear Daddy Nonoy,
Thanks for all the kindness, love and sharing of wonderfull memories everyday, for that I love you very much and wishing you a Happy(2x) Valentine!
Love,
Mommy Dhel

Maceh,
Tart, nobody can take you away from me.
I Love You so much!
HAPPY HEART'S DAY!
Mahal,
Mhyk

ALN,
Only you has my heart... in this lifetime and the next.
I LOVE YOU!.
AIV

Christine – JI
Basta, sasabihin ko na lang syo pag may lakas ng loob na ko.
Takot pang magpakilala

Papa Ambring & Mama Rosie,
Happy Valentine's Day!
We love you!
Paolo & Pearl

Lolo Boy & Flor,
Happy Valentine's Day!
We love you!
Paolo & Pearl

To: Fumanchu
HAPPY
VALENTINE!!!
I LOVE YOU!
Mommy Gina

No,
Happy Valentine
Ne

Bing,
Happy Valentine
Angie

To: Kulit
HAPPY
VALENTINE!!!
I LOVE YOU!
Mommy Lala

Labyog Labyog Daging Daging
Mochits Balhiboon.
Happy Valentine
Thabah

To: Edson C. Ong,
We love you Papa!
Happy Valentine's Day!
From:
Vita, Achie, Ditchie,
Budit, Kaykay, Ahya & Emer

Happy Valentine!
To all Staff & Members of
LUNTIAN MULTI-PURPOSE COOPERATIVES

To: Vic Diaz
HAPPY VALENTINE
A WARM WISH TO
REMIND YOU HOW
MUCH YOU'RE
CHERISHED ALL
THESE YEARS
Odit

18
THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR LIFE WITH ME. YOU HAVE GIVEN ME STRENGTH WHEN I WAS DOWN. YOU MADE ME HAPPY EVEN FOR A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME AND MOST ESPECIALLY FOR MAKING ME FEEL THE TRUE MEANING OF LOVE.
THOUGH WE HAVE TO SEPARATE OUR WAYS... GOD KNOWS I NEVER REGRET LOVING YOU.
MAY YOU HAVE A MEANINGFUL VALENTINE WITHOUT ME.
PAALAM
18

Jeff,
Love is seldom said, but the true meaning of it can be felt by showing your concern and understanding in everything we do.
Always remember that I do care and love you very much!
Happy Valentine's Day!
Love always,
Mama

Dear Wolverine,
We've spent so many Valentines together and every year, it becomes more special because of you. Always remember one thing... I promise I will stay. I'm with you all the way. I'll never, ever say goodbye... because I love you!
Happy Valentine!
Love,
Rogue

Gha
Your love is God's blessing to me. I'm glad we've find each other. Thank you for the love and care.
Happy Valentine!
Love you,
Zeng

Dearest Babes,
Thank you 4 being a great Valentine.
Love,
Louie

To my one & only sweety Rien,
Though we face the toughest challenge just to be together Our love will see us through & find a way.
I love you so very much!
You and I forever
Your one & only Dianne

Dear Tatay Temyong & Nanay Gloria,
Happy Valentine's Day!
We love you very much.
Love,
Nonoy, Dhel
Anton & Bianca

---

happy valentine's
edwin libunao
from: lesley

Dear Mommy and Daddy,
Thank you for giving us the greatest love of all! We love you.
Love,
Monet, Ruth,
Jason, Joy

To: *Jonsay, Jirah, Joanna,*
Happy Valentine's to you all!!! God bless!!
Love: *Tita Beth*

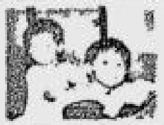
Bebs,
I guess it's meant to be — forever you and me!
Bebelina

Shawie Dear,
If Ms Anne Curtis is beautiful and so are you.
Happy Valentine's hon!
I love you very much!
Joel

Dear **Ma'am Emy,**
Thank you...
For all those times you stood by us,
For all the truth that you let us see,
For all the joy you bought to our lives,
For all the wrong that you made right,
For all the dreams you made come true,
For all the love we found in you...
These maybe words from a song but they're from the heart.
For all the trust, understanding, care and most of all the **LOVE** you've given us through the years... We love you!!!
Happy Valentine's Day!
From: **Tin, Ning, Joy**

Mhar, **Macky**, **Lala**, **Rading**, **Emie**, **Gemma**, **Venus** and **Darwin**,
Thank you for being the angels of Classifieds. Thank you too for the patience, understanding and friendship. Always stay happy and in love!!! Happy Valentine!
Emy, **Ning**, **Tin** and **Joy**
Atrium Branch

Dearest Mommy Nimfa,
We love you so much!
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!



Love:
Vincent & LJ

Jessielou Delgado,
You are my dream come true the one i've waited for...
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!
Raymond San Agustin

Nora,
Happy Heart's Day!
From,
Johann

---

happy valentine's
jaime d.
gonzales, jr.
miss u!

MY DEAREST **COCO,**
THANK YOU FOR TAKING THIS JOURNEY WITH ME. FOR ALL OUR LIVES AND BEYOND, I LOVE YOU AND I WILL BE HERE FOR YOU!!!
HEART AND SOUL,
JOHANN

Alda DJ of EPCIB,
i'll always keep u in my heart, 143,
art c. of coke

Mommy Claire,
Happy Valentine's Day!
love, Daddy
Gelly, Glenn,
Galvin,
Gladys

Honey,
You're the best thing that ever happened to me... I love you and I always will!
27

Lola Larly,
Happy Valentine's Day!
Love,
Ryan, Tin & Yayan

Happy Valentine to **Diwa**, **Mommy Beth**, **Michael F**, **Muy Muy**, **Annie**, **Len**, **Nick** at sa grupong team sama sama.
From:
Papogi Pogi

Dear Baby, Gale,
Ataf & Mark
Happy Valentine!
I Love You all!!!
From:
Papa Agoy

To: Kuya Dave, Ate Nene, Kuya Erning, Kuya Marvin, Ate Meteng, Kuya Tony, Aggie and Ate Luz,
May you be filled with love today and everyday... Happy Valentine's to you all!!!
From: Vangie
and Beth

Dear **Mommy** and **Daddy**,
Happy Heart's Day!
Thanks for everything.
Love,
Arnold
& Jhonna

Victor,
This is such a special kind of LOVE; more than ENDLESS; more than TRUE. You are my everything.
Happy Heart's Day!
Ava

To ANTHONY MY LAUZ,
I CAN'T FIND ANY WORDS TO EXPRESS MY THANKS TO YOU FOR LOVING ME SO MUCH.
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!
ALWAYS,
BIS OF YOUR BABY

Ethel,
Thanks for lighting up my life!
Happy Valentine's Day!
I Love You
Gilbert

Lore,
I'm falling even more in love with you...
Myk

Dear **Flying Cloud (5268171)**

These things I don't know:
- Are we really meant to be?
- Do you feel the way I do?
- Is this just a lover's quarrel or is this the end?

These things I do know:
- I have loved you for 10 years and will continue to do so
- Being with you makes me happy
- That I am willing to let you go if you want to go

Happy Valentine's Day

Sincerely
Bruised Knee

Mama Lyn,
HAPPY
VALENTINE'S DAY!
We love you!
Papa & Lanz

Mommy Izel
Happy Valentine's Day!
We love you very much.
From,
Isabela, Chibi & Roland

Lenie,
Happy Heart's Day!
Soul mates talaga tayo!
From,
Daddy Jhun

Happy
Heart's Day!
Tatay Nick & Nanay Mely!
We love you,
Lenie, Liza & Mark

Dad Brix,
Our minds are one
Our thoughts are free
while we are together,
Sweetie
It's just You and Me.
I want to grow old with you... my HUSBAND.
Happy Anniversary and Happy Valentine's Day!
I love you.
Maja
and Baby Charles

To Atoie,
Happy
Valentine's Day
to you
We love you.
Mama Liway & Papa Arthur

My beloved husband
Sem Sem,
There's no other place I'd like to be but there in your arms, for I finally found my home at last... YOU!
You're the reason of my existence, because you're my life, my everything. My love for you will always be unconditional and it'll be forevermore.
I love you so much, my Amir
Rahma

Dear Art,
Happy
Valentine's Day
and I will always
care for you
forever.
- Liway

Baby Yayan,
You are our life, our angel... Happy Valentine!
Love,
Mommy & Daddy

To: Lauren and Shiela,
Nanay, Yolly and
Annabelle,
Wishing you all love and happiness this Valentine's Day
God Bless
Love Alia & Polo

To: Kuya Marvin,
May the good Lord bless you on your birthday and everyday! Happy 21st Birthday and Happy Valentine's Day!
Love,
Renzo

To: Drex, Kevin, Danielle, Denisse, Samantha Faith, Adrian, Angel Joanna, Jamie, Justin
Happy Valentine's to you all!!! God Bless
Love. Tita Vangie
and Tita Beth

To: **Nanay Lily**,
May your special day be filled with joy and happiness! Happy Birthday and Happy Valentine's Day!
Love,
Renzo

Aning, my life, my all...
Let's leave d past behind.
Cherish every momoment.
Grow old together
CN WE START OL
OVR AGN?

For Amang and Inang,
Wishing you both love and happiness this Valentine's Day... God bless!
Love: Beth

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Income Property Nr UST 250m² Call 0917-4149898

LEON GUINTO NEAR QUIRINO AVE. Bnew/3Sty/3BR/3TB/grge P3.230M 8903461 loc 34

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Gnhts. new4br 2Mneg 9487112

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CAINTA RIZAL 126 sq.m P2.0M Bet Sta Lucia Mall & Makro 2br w/ Garage & Garden Neg w/ Terms Call 0916-5399667

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Nr. Xavier/ICA 363m² 8BR 5TB 5CGrge 16M 725-2311, 255-2608

OTHER AREAS

180m² 2.2M neg T-3611850

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RushlCanyonWoods Btngas P6.5M Call 0918-5052638

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CONDO/TWNHSE

MANILA

NR LA SALLE TAFT Twnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.230M 8903461 loc 34

QUEZON CITY

Cubao Condo P1.4M4381480

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RushlFernandina 88 100sqm 4.8MNeg 3br 2tb 0916-7069277

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LOT

QUEZON CITY

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2BR 3TB Le Gran Condomn GREENHILLS •824-7758•

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QUEZON CITY

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MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

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OFC STAFF 18-45 M/F Coll. Grad/ Level w/-or w/ o exp Call SHIE # 437-0454

OFCSTF LEAH 09193352395

OFFICE STAFF 09192535623 GLENDA

Sec Ofce Staf 09192270228 Benjie

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER TRNG 5276418

AUCTION SALE

MEYCAUAYAN-FILIPINAS Pawnshop, Aliw Complex, Calvario, Meyc. Bulacan.
All unredeemed pledges of August 2002 will be auctioned on Feb. 21, 8:30 am.
Lanuza & Sons-Auctioneer

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that an affidavit of adjudication by sole heir ARACELI M. DE JESUS on certain bank deposits of deceased MAXIMA D. MACATANGAY as per Doc. NO. 270; Page No. 57; Book No. 5; Series of 2003 before Atty. Dolorsindo I. Paner Notary Public City of Manila (PDI-February 7 14 & 21, 2003)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late DOMINGO F. CAPISTRANO SR. has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs before Atty. Elmer E. Manlangit, Notary Public of Makati City as per Doc. 476, Page 96, Book I, Series of 2002 (PDI-FEB.7,14 & 21, 2003)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given of the loss of Urban Bank Stock Cert #0530 (7Shares) #0694 (10Shares) issued to SPS Rafael & Rosario Dulalia. If no contest received new cert. will be issued. PDI-2/7,14 & 21, 2003

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL
6th Judicial Region
Branch 53 - Bacolod City
-oOo-

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR SUSPENSION OF PAYMENTS AND REHABILITATION OF C & L NOBLE, INC.,

COM. COURT CASE NO. 03-040

C & L NOBLE, INC., represented by its President, CESAR T. NOBLE, SR.
Petitioner.

ORDER

This is to act on the prayer for the issuance of a Stay Order pursuant to Section 6 of the Interim Rules of Procedure on Corporate Rehabilitation, in the present petition for Corporate Rehabilitation, filed by the petitioner.

Finding the petition sufficient in form and substance, having complied with Section 4, of the interim rules, the court hereby issues the following order:

(a) Atty. Jerry F. Bantillan, is hereby appointed as Rehabilitation Receiver and he shall enter upon his appointment upon posting a bond of P150,000.00;

(b) Henceforth or effective immediately, enforcement of all claims whether for money or otherwise is hereby stayed, whether such enforcement is by court action or otherwise against the DEBTOR, C & L NOBLE, INC., its guarantors and sureties not solidarily liable with said debtor

(c) The debtor, C & L NOBLE, INC. is hereby prohibited from selling, encumbering, transferring or disposing in any manner, any of its properties except in the ordinary course of business, as of the date of filing of the petition;

(d) The debtor C & L NOBLE, INC. is prohibited from making any payment of indebtedness as of the filing of the petition;

(e) The debtor's (C & L NOBLE, INC.) supplier of goods or services are prohibited from withholding supply of goods and services in the ordinary course of business for as long as the debtor makes payments for the services and goods supplied after the issuance of the STAY ORDER;

(f) All administrative expenses incurred after the issuance of the STAY ORDER shall be paid in full by the Rehabilitation Receiver

Set the initial hearing of this petition on Wednesday, March 26, 2003 at 8:30 in the morning. Let this order be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks.

All creditors and interested parties, including the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), are directed to file and serve on the petitioner a verified comment on or opposition to the petition, with supporting affidavits and documents, not later than ten (10) days before the date of the initial hearing putting them on notice that their failure to do so will bar them from participating in the proceedings.

Finally, all creditors and interested parties are directed to secure from the court copies of the petition and its annexes within such time as to enable themselves to file their comment on or opposition to the petition and to prepare for the hearing of the petition.

SO ORDERED.

Bacolod City, January 24, 2003.

(Sgd.) PEPITO B. GELLADA
Judge

(PDI--Feb. 14 & 21, 2003)

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of **COATS MANILA BAY, INCORPORATED** with office address at **Lopez Jaena St., Tanong, Marikina City** for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as **Expanding Export Producer of Yarn** at a capacity of **3,500,000 kgs.** per year with project site at **MBSMI Compound, Lopez Jaena St., Tanong, Marikina City** has been officially accepted on **January 24, 2003.**

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 24th day of January 2003.

(Sgd.) **FRANCISCO C. CHAVEZ**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI--Feb. 14, 2003)

R.A. Form No. 10.1 (LCRO)

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of CAPIZ
City/Municipality : SIGMA

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of RA No 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that MA. ELENA GARZON DALMACIO has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from MARIA SHERLY to MA. ELENA in the birth certificate of MARIA SHERLY GARZON DALMACIO who was born on November 4, 1968 at Hagonoy, Bulacan, and whose parents are RENATO ALONZO DALMACIO and ESTRELLA ELEGIO GARZON.

Any person adversely affected by said petitioner may file his written opposition with this Office not later than February 24, 2003

(Sgd.) DOMINGA B. VILLAFLOR
Municipal Civil Registrar

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Misamis Oriental
Cagayan de Oro City

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. Act No 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that NOEL LIMBOY LONGINO has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from ARTURO to NOEL in the birth certificate of ARTURO LINGINO who was born on 09 JANUARY 1948 at P.G.H. MANILA and whose parents are ANTONIO LONGINO and RAYMUNDA LIMBOY.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition within this office not later than 17 FEBRUARY 2003.

(Sgd.) LEO G. WABE
City Civil Registrar

(PDI - Feb. 7 & 14, 2003)

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No falling out between Pops and ABS-CBN

DOLLY WOOD
Dolly Ann Carvajal

MY "classmate" **Deo Endrinal** who holds the magic wand behind the careers of some of the biggest names on TV, belied reports that my close friend **Pops Fernandez** had a falling out with ABS-CBN management that's why she hasn't been visible in the Sunday noontime show, "Asap," lately.

I truly hope that tongues will stop wagging. Hasn't Pops been subjected to way too many baseless intrigues ever since she separated from **Martin Nievera**?

Knowing how fragile Pipay is, my heart goes out to her. As every woman like her who has walked through life and love's storms knows, sometimes all she needs is a hand to hold and a little shelter. She has given so much of herself in all her concerts through the years, so why should we deprive her of a little more kindness now that she has come full circle?

Ironing out the kinks

WHAT could be the reason behind **Janno Gibbs'** no-show after he did the opening number in "SOP" on GMA 7 last Sunday?

I missed the show, but my source tells me that Janno's wife **Bing Loyzaga** was in one of her moods. So to avoid further friction, Janno decided to bring her home and didn't return to the studio anymore.

Perhaps they decided to iron out the kinks right that minute. The domestic front can easily turn into a battle front if problems aren't addressed pronto. But then again, the show must go on and as a trooper, Janno knows that too well.

I guess the husband in him prevailed that day, so he couldn't care less if he left the audience hanging.

Cher's despedida

I HAD a blast with my beau Allan at my good friend **Cher Calvin's** *despedida* party at the hip Industry Bar (Filmore St., Makati). Since Cher has packed her bags and is Las Vegas-bound, the theme of her party was Vegas-inspired. There were colorful tokens, faux dollar bills, tons of coins, array of feathers sprinkled all over the place. And everyone was garbed in their showgirl/gambler outfits.

Cher donned a stunning black Versace number with a slit that goes way up high (very much like where her career path is headed to), accentuated with white feathers draped over her fab bod.

I asked her, "So are you more happy or sad that you're leaving?"

Cher, who grew up in New York, sighs, "I'm happy and sad in equal parts. I will surely miss all the friends I made during my six-year stay here. Though the offer of Fox News is too good to pass up."

I cornered her some more. "So isn't your boyfriend **Troy Montero** going to fly with you to Vegas

NO FALLING/ B19

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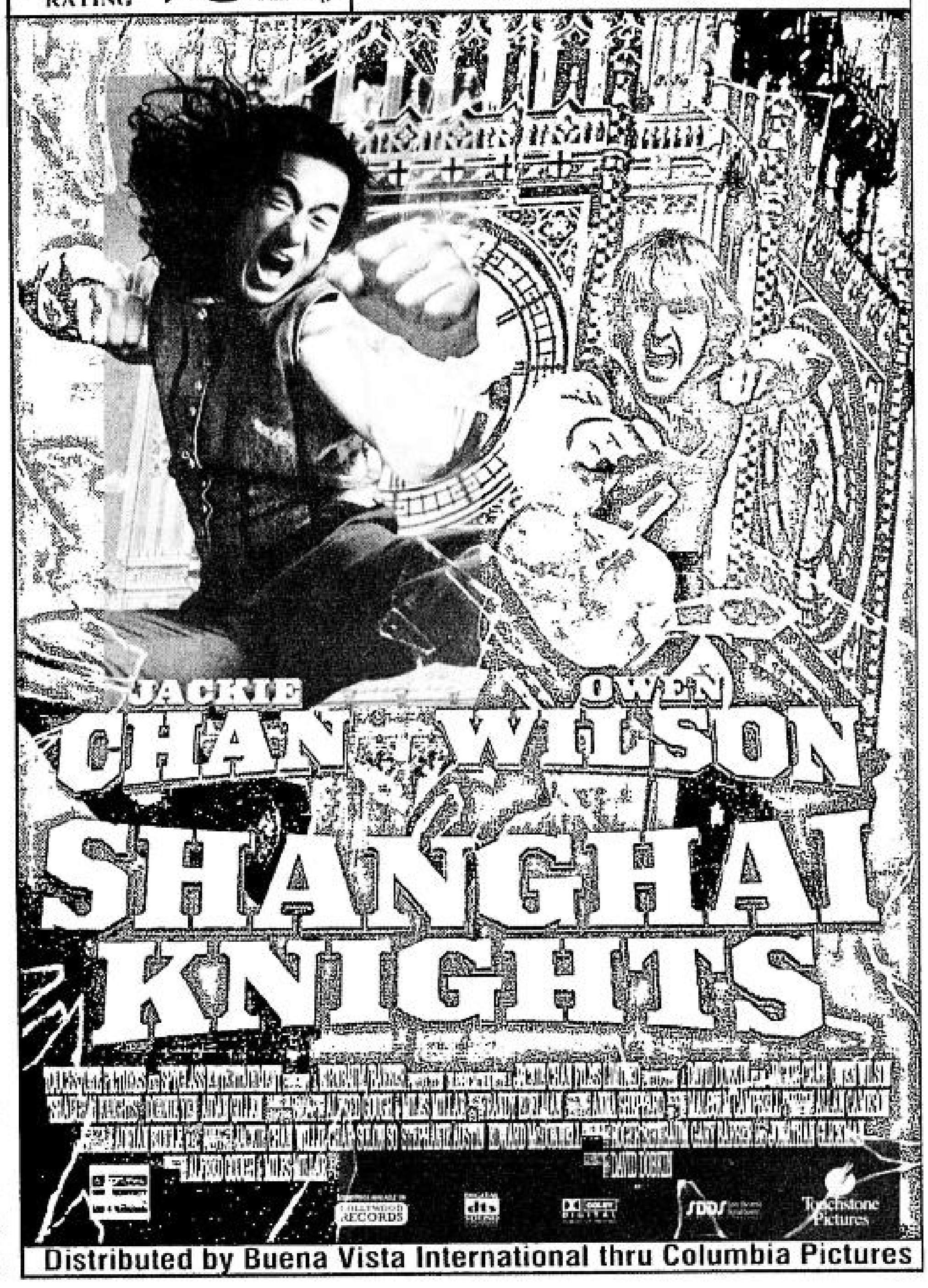

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ALBERT MARTINEZ TONTON GUTIERREZ
and LORNA TOLENTINO
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GIRLIE SEVILLA
ALLISON VII GONZALES
JON ROMANO & SUSAN AFRICA
ISABELLA DE LEON
DINDIN LLARENA JOSEPH ROBLE
Theme song sung by:
GARY VALENCIANO

JIRO MANIO as
MAGNIFICO
Pelikula ni Maryo J. de los Reyes, dgpi.
★ Truly a magnificent film. Bravo, Magnifico! - *Butch Francisco, The Philippine Star*
★ The First really good movie of 2003! - *Lito B. Zulueta, Philippine Daily Inquirer*
★ "Magnifico is Magnificent" - *Mario Hernando, Malaya*
★ "Pang-Oscar ang kalidad ng Magnifico" - *Archie de Calma, Imbestigador*
★ "Would that we all support this movie with lots of heart and the strength of its quite and hopeful honesty" - *Rina Jimenez-David, Philippine Daily Inquirer*
★ The whole thing is very Pinoy and is a particularly welcome intrusion in our times when people are despairing in this country. - *Conrado de Quiros, Philippine Daily Inquirer*
Violett

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HERO P13 12:40,3:00,5:20, 7:40,10:00	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN P13 11:10, 2:00,4:50, 7:40,10:30	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS GP 12:10,2:40,5:10, 7:40,10:20

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1 AB NORMAL COLLEGE	1 THEY	1 SWEPT AWAY (EXCLUSIVE) 11:50, 1:40, 3:30, 5:20, 7:10, 9:00	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 1 TWO WEEKS NOTICE 11:45, 2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45, 11:00	THX 1 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
2 MAGNIFICO	2 TH EYE	2 MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING 11:50, 1:40, 3:30, 5:20, 7:10, 9:00	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS 1:10, 3:40, 6:10, 8:40, 11:10	2 WHITE OLEANDER
3 TWO WEEKS NOTICE	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 TWO WEEKS NOTICE	OGIE ALCASID: OA SA PUSO Feb. 14 & 15	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20	3 TWO WEEKS NOTICE
4 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS	4 WHITE OLEANDER		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 THEY 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00	4 THEY
	5 CATCH ME IF YOU CAN		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 HERO 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:25, 11:30	5 HERO
	6 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS			
	7 HERO			

For screening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	HERO
2 (SDDS)	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
3 (DTS)	BETTER THAN SEX
4 GOLD (SDDS)	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
5 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	THEY
6 GOLD (SDDS)	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX)	WHITE OLEANDER
8	AB NORMAL
9	MAGNIFICO
10	I SPY

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	MAGNIFICO
2	
3 (DTS)	
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	HERO

Masagana CINEMA ①②&③
(Pasay) tel 833.3290, 833.3274

1	AB NORMAL
2	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
3	MAGNIFICO

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	HERO
2	AB NORMAL
3	MAGNIFICO
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
5	SUKDULAN

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	HERO
2	SUKDULAN
3	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
4	AB NORMAL
5	BETTER THAN SEX
6	MAGNIFICO

M star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas)
tel 873.5004

1	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
2	MAGNIFICO

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010 to13

SHANGHAI KNIGHTS

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	8 MILE
2	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	MAGNIFICO
2	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
3	RESERVE

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
2	AB NORMAL
3	KALARO
4	MAGNIFICO

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS)	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
4	WHITE OLEANDER
5	MAGNIFICO
6	AB NORMAL
7 (DTS)	HERO
8 (SDDS)	I SPY
9 (DOLBY)	THEY

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1	AB NORMAL
2	MAGNIFICO
3	BETTER THAN SEX
4 (SDDS)	HERO
5	I SPY
6 (DOLBY)	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
7 (DTS)	THEY
8	SUKDULAN
9	BALAT SIBUYAS

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082

1	MAGNIFICO
2 (SDDS)	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
3 (DTS)	SUKDULAN
4 (DOLBY)	HERO
5	AB NORMAL

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	MAGNIFICO
2	AB NORMAL
3	HERO
4	SUKDULAN
5 (SDDS)	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	AB NORMAL

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	AB NORMAL

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	SEX & SEN
Lords	MAGNIFICO
Jennet	

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	AB NORMAL
2	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
3	MAGNIFICO
4	THEY

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
2	MAGNIFICO
3	BETTER THAN SEX
4	AB NORMAL
5	HERO

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	
2	

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030, 879.2029

1	MAGNIFICO
2	AB NORMAL

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400

1	AB NORMAL
2	MAGNIFICO
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
4 (SDDS)	HERO
5 (DTS)	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
6	WHITE OLEANDER
7	THEY

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400

1	AB NORMAL
2	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
TEL. (049) 837-0026, 534-2185

1	BALAT SIBUYAS
2	AB NORMAL
3 (DTS)	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	MAGNIFICO
2 (DTS)	THEY
3 (DOLBY)	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
4	AB NORMAL

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	MAGNIFICO
2 (DOLBY)	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
3 (DTS)	THEY
4	AB NORMAL

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	SUKDULAN
2	8 MILE
3 (DOLBY)	I SPY
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	MAGNIFICO
2	BELOW
3 (DOLBY)	HOT CHICCK
4 (DTS)	TWO WEEKS NOTICE

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY)	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
2 (DTS)	MAGNIFICO
3	HOT CHICK

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
2	AB NORMAL
3 (DTS)	MAGNIFICO
4	BETTER THAN SEX

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
2	TRY SEVENTEEN
3 (DTS)	AB NORMAL
4	MAGNIFICO
5	BALAT SIBUYAS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	BALAT SIBUYAS
2	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
3	AB NORMAL

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
2	THEY
3	AB NORMAL

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	BALAT SIBUYAS
2	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
3 (DTS)	AB NORMAL
4	LORD OF THE RINGS

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	BALAT SIBUYAS
2	MAGNIFICO
3	AB NORMAL

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	SUKDULAN
2	HOT CHICK
3	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
4	LORD OF THE RING

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
2	AB NORMAL
3 (SDDS)	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
4	BELOW

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121

1	MAGNIFICO
2	AB NORMAL
3 (DOLBY)	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
4 (DTS)	TWO WEEKS NOTICE

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

FESTIVAL MALL
Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang

Tel. 85035-71 to 72

JACKIE CHAN OWEN WILSON

SHANGHAI KNIGHTS

A Royal Kick In The Arse

NOW SHOWING!

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173866

1	SUKDULAN
2	MAGNIFICO
3	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
4	THEY
5	HERO
6	AB NORMAL COLLEGE
7	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
8	I SPY

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1	MAGNIFICO
2	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
3	HERO
4	BETTER THAN SEX
5	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
6	SUKDULAN
7	THEY
8	WHITE OLEANDER
9	AB NORMAL COLLEGE
10	I SPY

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	I SPY
2	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
3	SUKDULAN
4	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
5	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
6	AB NORMAL COLLEGE
7	HERO
8	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
9	MAGNIFICO
10	RING (JAPANESE)
11	THEY
12	BETTER THAN SEX

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	HERO
2	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
3	WHITE OLEANDER
4	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
5	THEY
6	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
7	SUKDULAN
8	I SPY
9	THE EYE
10	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
11	MAGNIFICO
12	AB NORMAL COLLEGE

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	SHANGHAI KNIGTS
2	I SPY
3	SHANGHAI KNIGTS
4	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
5	THEY
6	PELIKULA AT LIPUNAN
7	BETTER THAN SEX
8	THE EYE
9	AB NORMAL COLLEGE
10	WHITE OLEANDER
11	HERO
12	MAGNIFICO

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	THE EYE
2	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
3	MAGNIFICO
4	AB NORMAL COLLEGE
5	SUKDULAN
6	THEY
7	HERO
8	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS

SM SOUTHMALL
8068888

1	I SPY
2	HERO
3	THE EYE
4	THEY
5	BETTER THAN SEX
6	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
7	MAGNIFICO
8	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
9	AB NORMAL COLLEGE
10	SUKDULAN

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
2	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
3	RING (JAPANESE)
4	HOT CHICK
5	FEMME FATALE
6	BALAT SIBUYAS
7	AB NORMAL COLLEGE
8	I SPY

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	AB NORMAL COLLEGE
2	CLOSED
3	I SPY
4	8 MILE
5	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
6	ONE HOUR PHOTO
7	CLOSED
8	TRY SEVENTEEN

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
2	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
3	I SPY
4	MAGNIFICO
5	THEY
6	AB NORMAL COLLEGE

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	HERO
2	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
3	AB NORMAL COLLEGE
4	TWO WEEKS NOTICE

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
2	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
3	MAGNIFICO
4	AB NORMAL COLLEGE

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	I SPY
2	ONE HOUR PHOTO
3	AB NORMAL COLLEGE
4	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
5	REPLI-KATE
6	THEY

SM BICUTAN
776-3055

1	HERO
2	AB NORMAL COLLEGE
3	MAGNIFICO
4	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
859-2084

1	I SPY
2	MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING
3	AB NORMAL COLLEGE
4	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
633-8976

1	TWO WEEKS NOTICE 11:15 MF/11:45/2:00/4:15/6:30/8:45/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:45 END
2	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS 11:00 MF/11:20/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/ 10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:55 END

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
Matinee : P100.00 - Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday
Regular Rate P120.00 - After 5pm • Saturday • Sunday • Holidays (Reserved Seating)

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS
@ Robinsons Malls

call-a-movie: 536- 7812

NOW SHOWING

Galleria 632- 9115- 16 633- 7641 loc. 279

THX	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS 10:45 MF, 1:20, 3:55, 6:30, 9:30 LMF
2	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
3	WHITE OLANDER
4	THEY
5	AB NORMAL
6	HERO
7	I SPY
8	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
9	THE EYE
10	MAGNIFICO

MATINEE PRICE: P80 THX cinema / P75 1level cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am - 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS!)

Ermita 536 -7809- 12

1	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
2	THEY
3	HERO
4	THE EYE
5	AB NORMAL
6	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
7	WHITE OLANDER

Metro East - Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280

1	THEY
2	WHITE OLANDER
3	MAGNIFICO
4	I SPY
5	HERO
6	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
7	AB NORMAL
8	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS

Novaliches 935- 3229 - 30

1	HERO
2	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
3	THEY
4	MAGNIFICO
5	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
6	AB NORMAL
7	I SPY
8	WHITE OLANDER

Malabon Citisquare 288-0985 / 288-2575

1	BALATSIBUYAS
2	MAGNIFICO
3	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
4	AB NORMAL

Star Mills- Sn. Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927 961- 5318 / 5270

1	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
2	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
3	THEY
4	AB NORMAL
5	MAGNIFICO
6	I SPY

Imus 471- 8188 / 875- 3638

1	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
2	HERO
3	AB NORMAL
4	WHITE OLANDER
5	THEY
6	MAGNIFICO

Sta. Rosa Laguna 049-8370907

1	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
2	MAGNIFICO
3	BALATSIBUYAS
4	THEY
5	AB NORMAL

Bacolod 441- 0453 / 0459

1	I SPY
2	HOT CHICK
3	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
4	THEY
5	LORD OF THE RINGS
6	SUKDULAN

Iloilo 336- 8077 - 78

1	I SPY
2	AB NORMAL
3	8 MILE
4	TRY SEVENTEEN
5	ONE HOUR PHOTO
6	LORD OF THE RINGS 2

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

No falling out between Pops and ABS-CBN

From page B17

and maybe you'll get married there?"

She blushes, "We both got to work first. He's going to have a new show and I will be doing the news for Fox, so marriage has to wait."

The party was an intimate gathering of Cher's closest chums. Spotted at her fete were my "nocturnal sister" **Riki Kwek** (who has lost so much weight so I teased her that she's overqualified to be centerfold material), **Tim Yap, JM Rodriguez, Geneva Cruz, Claudine Trillo** and the inimitable direk **Mark Reyes** to name a few.

Troy's brother **KC Montero** (part-owner of Industry), was around to make sure that everybody was partying to the max.

Valentine treat

EVEN if your heart is not exactly in good shape to celebrate Valentine's Day, why shouldn't your body be?

As my V-day treat to you, I'd like to let you in on the best-kept secret not just for being fit but staying fit.

Text 0916-7069009 for the juicy information.

Personal

HAPPY birthday to my ever-reliable friend **Ambet Nabus**! Thanks for never deserting me even during my darkest hours.

My deepest condolences to my favorite buddies **Jonn** and **Julius Santillan**. I'm sure your dad is watching over you and feeling so proud.

Merci beaucoup **A.S.** for redefining V-day for me.

Je t'adore.

For feedback, e-mail *friend_at_dsquare@yahoo.com or jaimealsan@yahoo.com*

Bands at Conservatory

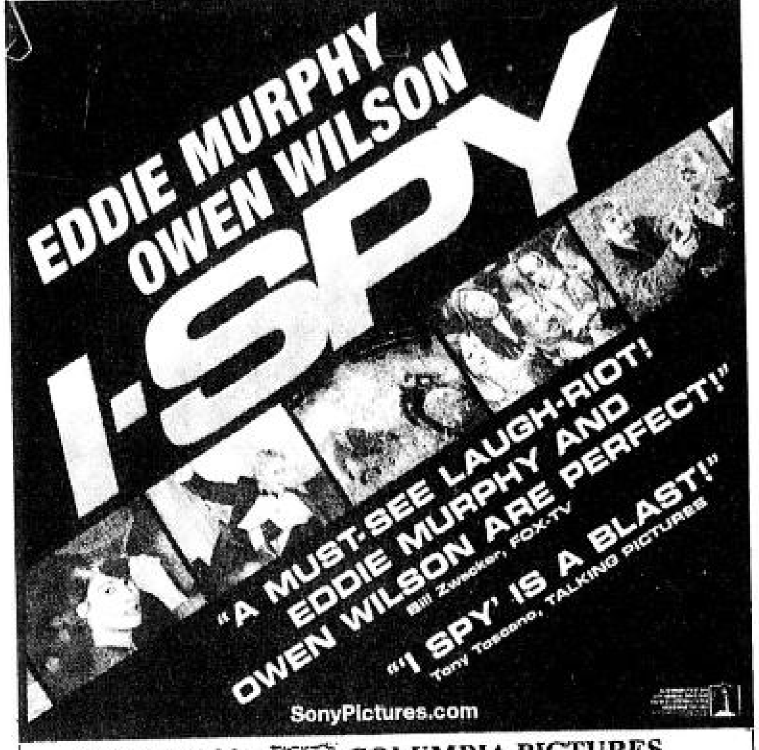
UNWIND in the comfortable atmosphere of The Conservatory, Makati's premier watering hole and be entertained by top live bands for the month of February.

Performing during the "Happy Hour Grind" from 6 to 9 p.m. are the Music Making Company on Mondays and Thursdays, X.O.P. on Tuesdays and Fridays and Z-fra on Wednesdays.

From 9 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. on Mondays to Thursdays and until 3 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, party the night away with the high-energy performance of bands during "Groove Nights."

Prime Council performs on Mondays, Route 70 on Tuesdays, Hyperbeat on Wednesdays and Fridays, Flipside on Thursdays and Saturdays, Illustra on Fridays and EtCetera on Saturdays.

After 007 comes 009 ½
2ND "ACTION COMEDY" WEEK!
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult


EDDIE MURPHY
OWEN WILSON
I-SPY
"A MUST-SEE LAUGH-RIOT! EDDIE MURPHY AND OWEN WILSON ARE PERFECT!" Bill Zwecker, FOX-TV
"'I SPY' IS A BLAST!" Tony Toscano, TALKING PICTURES
SonyPictures.com

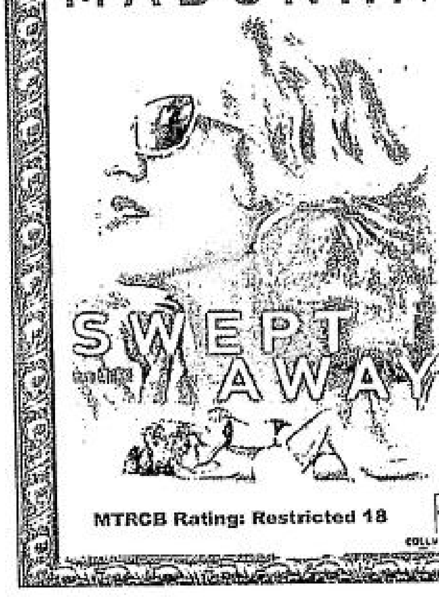
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

AYALA CINEMAS
Laugh out loud & fall in love when America's No. 1 Romantic Comedy Returns ONLY at
GREENBELT 1
MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING
"Two Thumbs up!" Elbert & Roeper
"One party you shouldn't miss" George Permacchio, KABC-TV
"Heartfelt & Hilarious!" Peter Travers, Rolling Stone
NOW SHOWING
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

Love is here to stay so is her family

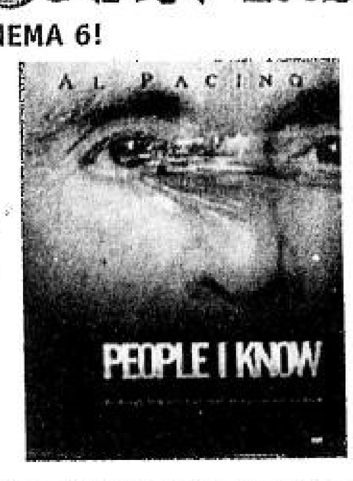
SPECIAL ADVANCE SCREENINGS
AYALA CINEMAS
GLORIETTA 1 & 4
GREENBELT 3
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
FEB. 17 (Mon.) & 18 (Tue.)
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
For more information, please call 752-7880 or 82.
REGULAR RUN BEGINS MARCH 5

jennifer lopez
ralph fiennes
maid in manhattan



AYALA CINEMAS
Laugh out loud & fall in love this February only at
ArtFilm GREENBELT 1
Imagine being shipwrecked on a beautiful island - with someone you really can't stand.
Madonna, Adriano Giannini, Bruce Greenwood, Jeanne Tripplehorn & David Thornton
Guy Ritchie directs wife MADONNA in this romantic comedy, where a young sailor (ADRIANO GIANNINI) is cast adrift on an island with his employer, a rich self-centered woman who is used to having her way. Cut off from society, he reverses their roles, stripping her of her pride and controlling her completely. Until, that is, she falls in love with him.
NOW SHOWING
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18
COLUMBIA PICTURES NOKIA INQUIRER

OUR VALENTINE'S OFFERING!
PELIKULA at LIPUNAN 2003
AT SM MEGAMALL, CINEMA 6!
EXCLUSIVE ASIAN PREMIERE!
Al Pacino Kim Basinger
PEOPLE I KNOW
by Daniel Algrant
TONIGHT ONLY.
9:30PM, Cinema 6

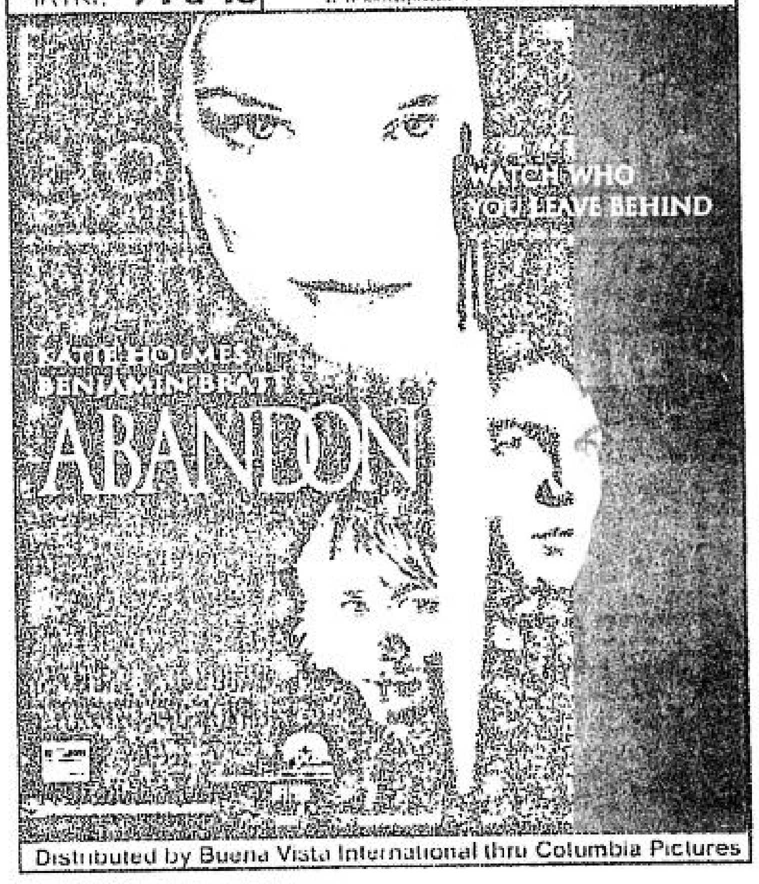


for inquiries: call mfi at 7271915 www.mfi.com.ph
Philippine Airlines

NOW SHOWING
AT SELECTED THEATERS
MAKAPANINDIG-BALAHIBO!
SCREAM NOW LIKE THERE'S NO TOMORROW!
MTRCB RATING PG 13 Parents are strongly cautioned not to bring children below 13 yrs. old to watch this movie because of the intensity of the horror & visual content

MATAPANG KA BA?
WALANG/KABA?
DI MARUNONG MATAKOT?
MATIBAY ANG DIBDIB?
P'WES, ITO ANG HORROR MOVIE
NA DI MO KAKAYANIN...
TIYAK 'YUN!
Starring LEE SIN-JE
LAWRENCE CHOU
THE EYE
NAYKUPUU...K-KITA KO SILA!!
THEY'RE EVERYWHERE!!!

A THRILLER THAT WILL KEEP YOU GUESSING!
OPENS FEBRUARY 19
MTRCB RATING PG-13



Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

MTRCB RATING PG 13 | Children below 13 years old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

NOW SHOWING

Araneta Center ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	AB NORMAL
Ali 2	MAGNIFICO
Ali 3	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
Ali 4	HERO
Ali 5	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
Ali 6	WHITE OLEANDER
Ali 7	THEY

FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS

Farmers 1	AB NORMAL
Farmers 2	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS

ARANETA COLISEUM

FEB 13	RONAN KEATING CONCERT
FEB 14	SIDE A AND FREESTYLE
FEB 15	ABBA TRIBUTE CONCERT

ELEPHANT WORLD

FEB 13	10 AM / 3 PM
FEB 14	10 AM / 3 PM
FEB 15	10 AM / 3 PM / 5 PM

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	BLOOD RELATION / PICK-UP GIRLS
ODEON	SHANGHAI NIGHTS
ODEON-2	SEX EDUCATION / RATRATAN
ROBEN	BETTER THAN SEX
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	TUXEDO / CLOCK STOPPER

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	BETTER THAN SEX
CORONET B	TUXEDO / TEENAGE SEDUCTION
QUEZON-1	BETTER THAN SEX
REMAR	SHANGHAI NIGHTS
REMAR-2	BALAT SIBUYAS

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	AB NORMAL
B	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
CINEMA-2	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BALAT SIBUYAS
CINEMA-2	SUKDULAN
CINEMA-3	I SPY
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
CINEMA-6	EYES
CINEMA-7	FEMME FATALE
CINEMA-8	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THEY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	HERO
CINEMA-12	WHITE OLEANDER
CINEMA-14	AB NORMAL COLLEGE
CINEMA-15	MAGNIFICO

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

CINEMA 1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
CINEMA 2	BAHID
CINEMA 3	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA 4	CHANGING LANES

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

Automatic CENTRE Shop 'n Swipe

You'll love the brands and models at Automatic Centre's new exhibit

RUSTAN SUPERSTORE,
ARANETA CENTER
FEBRUARY 14 TO MARCH 2, 2003

TOP appliance brands are at it again in Automatic Centre's **Shop 'n Swipe** Appliance Exhibit at the Rustan Superstore in Araneta Center, Quezon City.

The exciting exhibit, which will be held from **Feb. 14 to March 2, 2003**, will definitely be a haven for appliance shoppers who are out to hunt for gifts either for their loved ones or for themselves. With occasions coming one after another, and with the Graduation season just around the corner, it would definitely be the most appropriate time to buy what with those affordable prices and selected appliances being offered at **zero-percent interest.**

In the said exhibit, shoppers will have their appliance dreams fulfilled with all participating brands brandishing their top-of-the-line products and latest models.

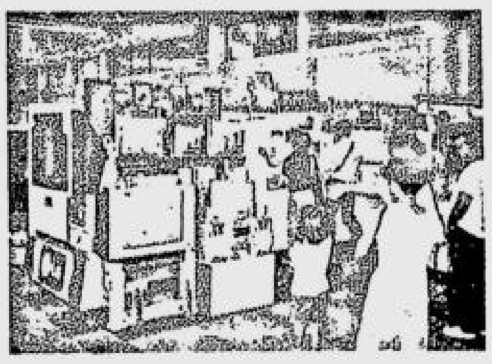
Automatic Centre, the appliance store of choice, will have as exhibitors brands like Aiwa, Carrier, Condura, Elba, JVC, Kelvinator, Konka, LG, National Panasonic, Philips, Pioneer, Sharp, Sony and Whirlpool.

Shoppers can enjoy **lower interest rates** on credit card buys as well as low cash prices.

And with all major credit cards accepted, appliance buyers have the option to use their cards' two credit lines—they can either straight-charge it or buy it via installment. Selected appliances are also being offered at **zero-percent interest.**

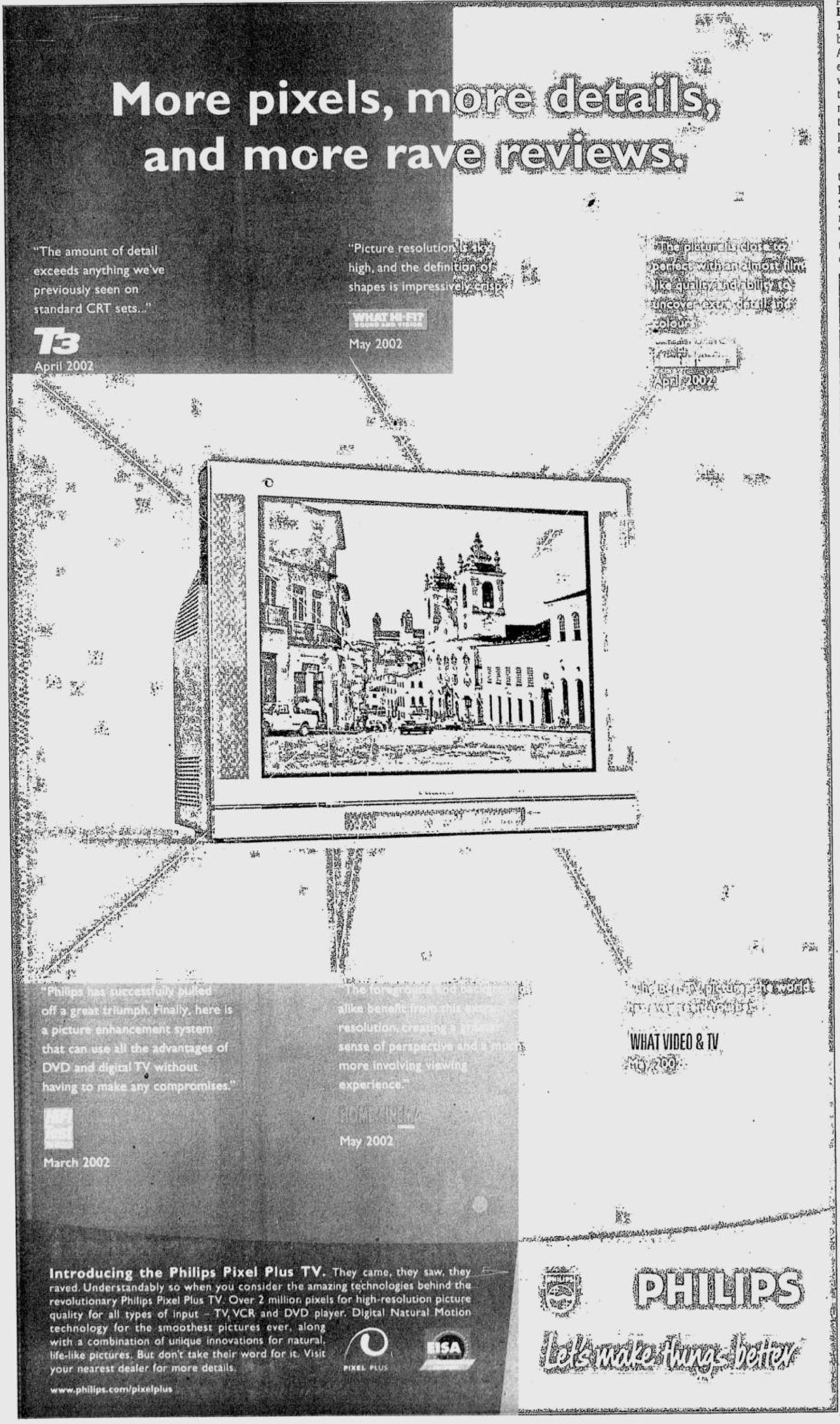
Shoppers can also avail of the various amenities being offered by Automatic Centre like the **Warranty Plus** and the **Money Back Guarantee.** The Warranty Plus gives appliance shoppers the option to extend the warranty of the appliances they buy. They can choose between one, two or up to five years warranty just for a one-time payment during their purchase. The **Money Back Guarantee**, on the other hand, is a 14-day warranty that allows customers to buy their appliances with confidence from Automatic Centre. This amenity protects buyers just in case they find other appliance stores which offer lower prices on the same item they bought from Automatic Centre. Automatic Centre will give back to the customer the price difference. All he has to do is to show proof of the lower price. This offer is available all-year round.

Exhibit customers still have a chance to join the **"Lucky New Year—FREE Good Luck Charms"** promotion until **Feb. 16, 2003** in all Automatic Centre branches. A minimum P1,000 purchase lets you pick an "Ang Pao" (Lucky red envelope) which contains one of 10 Good Luck charms or a gift certificate worth up to P500.



Participating brands

aiwa
Carrier
CONDURA
ELBA
JVC
Kelvinator
KONKA
LG
National Panasonic
PHILIPS
Pioneer
SHARP
SONY
Whirlpool



More pixels, more details, and more rave reviews.

"The amount of detail exceeds anything we've previously seen on standard CRT sets..."
T3
April 2002

"Picture resolution is sky high, and the definition of shapes is impressively crisp."
WHAT HI-FI? SOUND AND VISION
May 2002

"The picture is close to perfect with an almost film-like quality and ability to uncover extra detail and colour."
April 2002

"Philips has successfully pulled off a great triumph. Finally, here is a picture enhancement system that can use all the advantages of DVD and digital TV without having to make any compromises."
March 2002

"The foreground and background alike benefit from this extra resolution, creating a greater sense of perspective and a much more involving viewing experience."
HOME CINEMA
May 2002

[illegible]
WHAT VIDEO & TV
[illegible]

Introducing the Philips Pixel Plus TV. They came, they saw, they raved. Understandably so when you consider the amazing technologies behind the revolutionary Philips Pixel Plus TV. Over 2 million pixels for high-resolution picture quality for all types of input – TV, VCR and DVD player. Digital Natural Motion technology for the smoothest pictures ever, along with a combination of unique innovations for natural, life-like pictures. But don't take their word for it. Visit your nearest dealer for more details.

www.philips.com/pixelplus

PIXEL PLUS
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PHILIPS
Let's make things better

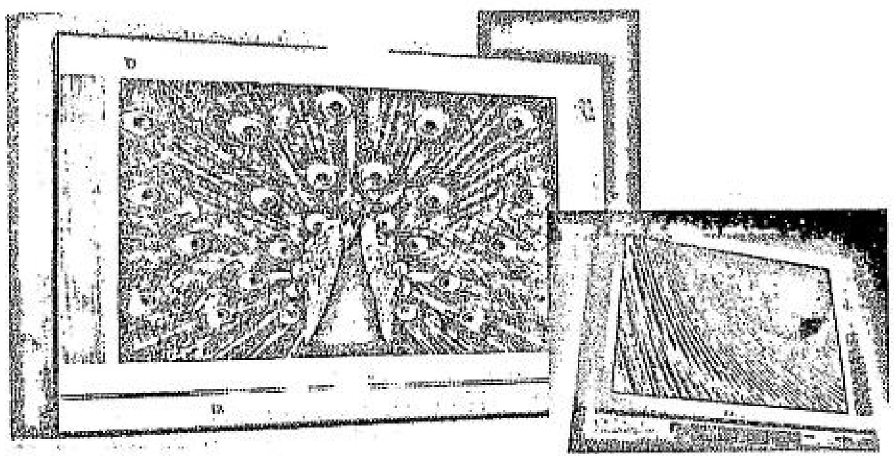
Automatic CENTRE

Shop 'n Swipe

RUSTAN SUPERSTORE, ARANETA CENTER

FEBRUARY 14 TO MARCH 2, 2003

Awards and rave reviews from EISA



PHILIPS Consumer Electronics, Europe's largest consumer electronics company, once again tops its record with the much lauded performance of its newest innovation: the ultra-high resolution Pixel Plus.

Pixel Plus bagged the top honors from the European Imaging and Sound Association (EISA). Widely recognized as one of the most prestigious award giving bodies in the consumer electronics industry, EISA recently named the Philips Pixel Plus TV the 'Best European TV' for the 2002-2003.

The Pixel Plus TV also received the distinction 'Television of the Year' for 2002. Media Totaal, one of Europe's top trade publications, awarded the citation.

This award-winning TV makes use of the latest TV technology developed by Philips. The innovative Pixel Plus technology incorporates impressive image processing improvements to bring incredible sharpness, natural detail and depth to the pictures onscreen, resulting in no less than a Resolution Revolution.

Apart from the awards, the Philips Pixel Plus TV also garnered praises from Europe's most respected publications, consistently topping the "Best Buy" list of top trade magazines.

In the May 2002 issue of What Video & TV, Philips Pixel Plus TV was judged 'Best Buy', as "the picture this TV shows from every source is nothing short of stunning... the images look sharper, more detailed, and even more three-dimensional than those we'd seen on any TV before."

The March 2002 issue of Hi-Fi Test also states, "The Pixel Plus technology catapults the Philips TV into instant superstardom," calling the result of this new technology multiplying the picture resolution "nothing short of the longed-for visual revelation."

Essential Home Cinema's Issue # 12 notes how Pixel Plus works well with other Philips innovations, more notably the Digital Natural Motion (DNM), an advanced motion compensation technique that corrects the reproduction of movement in the picture. States the magazine "Together with DNM, Pixel Plus really enhances the appearance of fine line detail and overall clarity."

Widescreen TV also gave the Pixel Plus TV an all-around excellent rating, saying, "The Pixel Plus impact is immediate and gobsmacking...its extraordinary benefits are achieved with practically no side effects."

French trade magazine Cinéma Chez Soi calls Philips Pixel Plus "A TV which stands out from the rest with remarkably clever technology. It ensures a fantastic picture... an undeniable winner."

The Pixel Plus TV is not only lauded for its image-enhancing abilities, but also for its superb audio capabilities. AV magazine's Hardware Test states "Philips has not only brought in new picture technology, but has also come up with a modern, sleek, new look. There's a completely new speaker system to go with this new design, giving a fabulous level of sound performance."

What Hi-Fi? Sound and Vision magazine sums up the Pixel Plus TV's sound performance by saying, "For a Dolby Digital equipped set, Philips does well; there's weight solidity and subtlety, plus precise effects-panning. Add it all up and this set is up with the class leaders when it comes to sound."

Such distinctions and reviews show that Philips Pixel Plus delivers on its promise to provide the best viewing experience ever. By combining the best of Philips in one package, Pixel Plus truly revolutionizes the TV industry.

0% Interest
On selected LG Color TV, VCD and DVD players, aircons, refs and washing machines

0% Interest plans
On selected PIONEER audio video products and ELBA cooking appliances

Only LG conventional TV has a DVD component input and an AV Multi System that reads practically all video formats in the universe.

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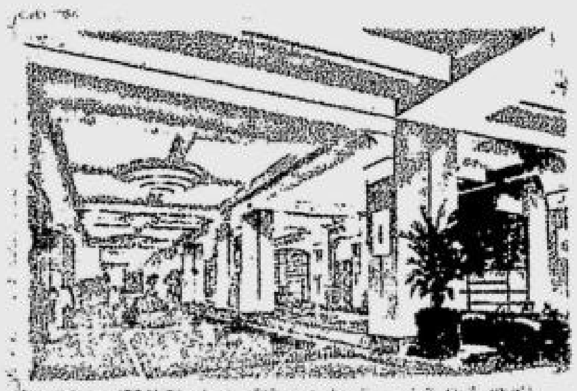
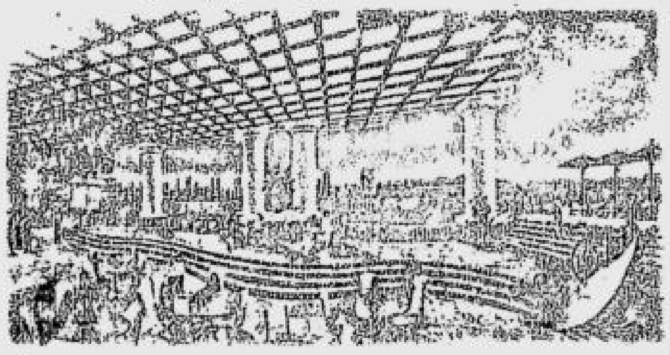
The Ultimate in High-Rise Living

1322 Roxas Boulevard

Model Unit Launching

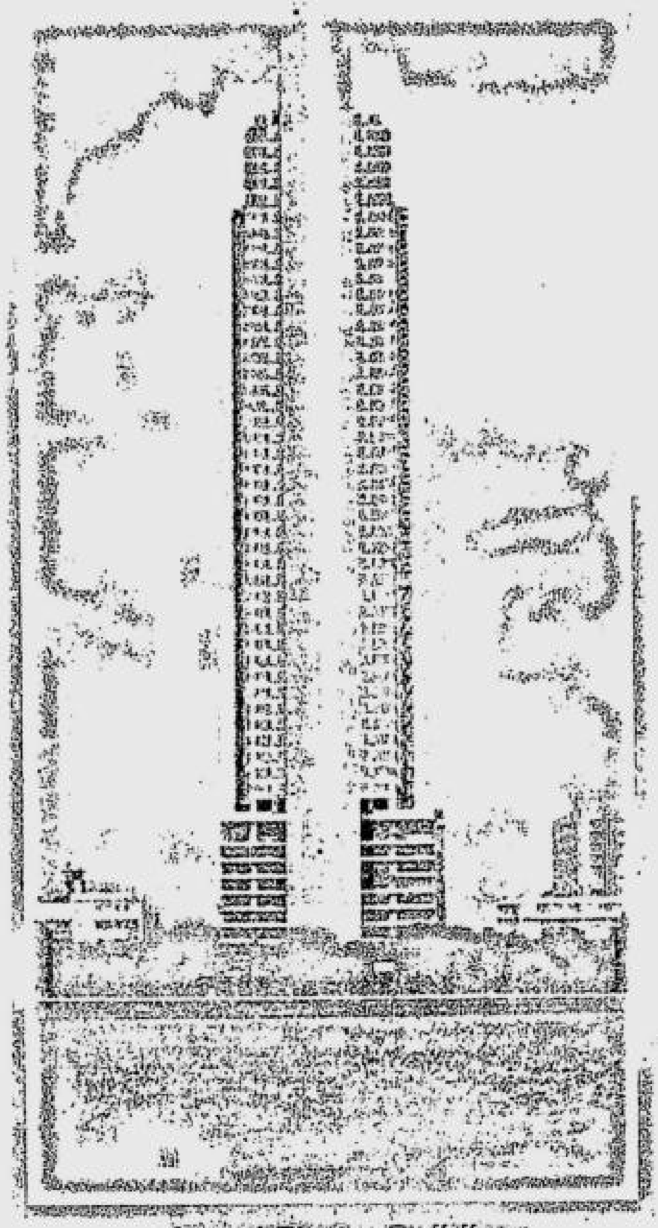
on February 15, 2003, 9am to 6pm

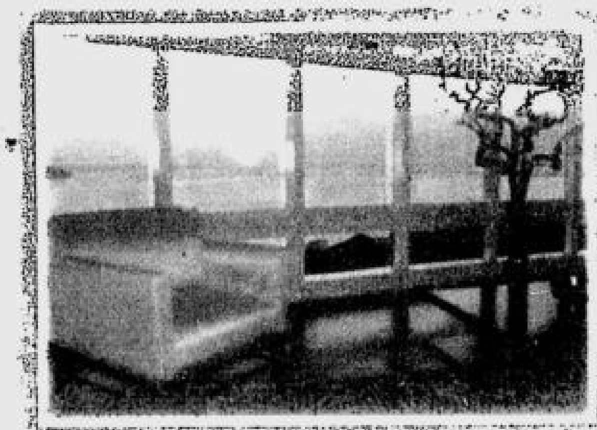

Entrance Ramp

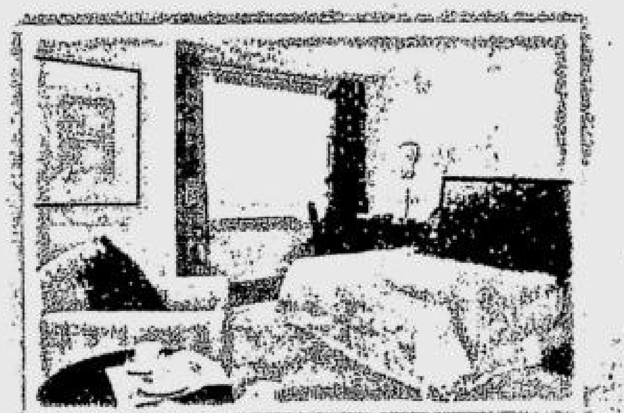

Amenities Floor

Actual Photo: Living Room

Actual Photo: Dining Room


Actual Photo: Building

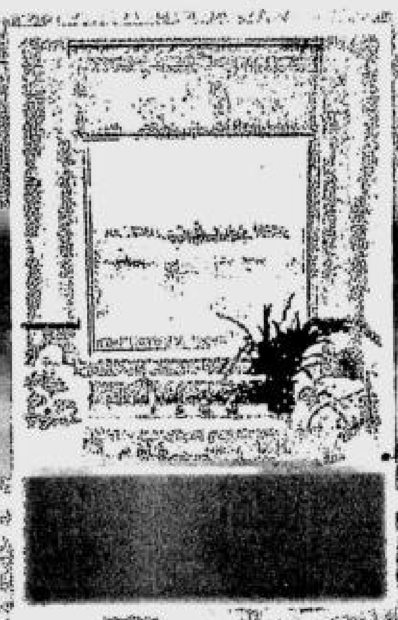

Actual Photo: Bay View Room


Actual Photo: Bedroom

An architectural jewel, 1322 Roxas Boulevard has a rare facet that makes it a cut above the rest. It is the only condominium building in the country with a circular, floor-to-ceiling curtain wall, a glass enclosure that provides all suites with a panoramic view of Manila Bay and Roxas Boulevard, site of one of the world's most stunning sunsets.

It is a world of 21st century prestigious living, designed for the condominium dweller who places a high premium on elegance, convenience, comfort and safety.

Actual Photo: Kitchen


Actual Photo: Bathroom

A fully-finished residential condominium unit includes:

- PARKING SLOTS (2 slots for 3BR and 3 slots for 4BR)
- AIRCON UNITS (5 for 3BR units and 6 for 4BR units)
- Kitchen cabinets and closets for all bedrooms
- Toilet and bath for each bedroom
- Centralized Storage-type Water Heater
- CCTV cameras interfaced with stationary and roving security guards
- Separate storage area at parking level

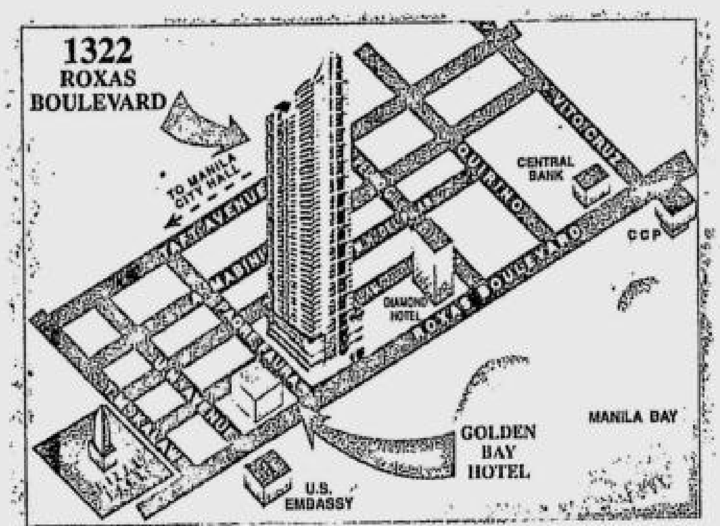
Among several other additional inclusions

All Prices are VAT Inclusive !

FEATURES AND AMENITIES

- An amenities floor with complete standard features plus a physical fitness center, sauna and massage rooms and children's playroom
- Spacious indoor and outdoor lounges and function area with a 300 seating capacity
- Adult and Children's swimming pool
- Jacuzzi
- Putting Green, gazebos and viewing deck
- Three (3) entrances/exits with 6.0 meter-wide driveways
- Hotel-type Grand lobby
- Ten state-of-the-art elevators

1322 Roxas Boulevard. Good Fortune dwells here.



Marketed Exclusively By:

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Interested parties who want to see the model unit on February 15 may visit or call MRMI on the third floor of Golden Bay Hotel across the condominium project at the corner of Padre Faura and Roxas Boulevard.

Tel. Nos. **536-0082** and **536-0072**

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
BUSINESS Friday
Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Chances are, your shirt came from soda bottles

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

CALASIAO, Pangasinan—Take a look at the trademark of the clothes you are wearing. Does it say "polyester," "polyester with cotton" or "polyester with rayon?"

If you answer yes, then in all probability, you are wearing recycled Coca-Cola bottles made of *polyethylene terephthalate*, coded PET1 by the United States Society of Plastic Industries.

Like other companies, Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. (CCBPI) has veered towards convenient packaging. In 2000, it launched the 1.5-liter non-returnable PET1 package for its Coke bottles.

But the convenient packaging contributes to the already deteriorating solid waste conditions in urban centers and CCBPI is faced with a big question: What to do with the plastic bottles that could worsen the already terrible garbage problem of Metro Manila?

According to a CCBPI paper on Mission PET (Pinoy Environment Team), plastics make up only 16 percent or 960 metric tons of garbage that are collected daily in Metro Manila, "but their ubiquitous presence constantly elicits negative, antagonistic attitudes from environmental watchdogs."

The paper was prepared by Milagros Llorin, CCBPI vice president for corporate affairs; Leonides Valencia of CCBPI's consumer and environmental affairs management; and Hubert Adoreno, an environmental specialist.

Of the plastic waste collected, only 8 metric tons are PET1; the rest are polyethylene (milk jugs, grocery bags), polypropylene (drinking straws, aerosol caps), polyvinyl (furniture, plastic pipes) or polystyrene (cups, meat trays).

The PET1 bottles are easy to recognize because they usually have "PET1" or "1" mark on their bottoms.

"But while the Coca-Cola bottles were made of PET1 or the most recyclable plastic, they were not bought by scrap dealers or recyclers because the recycling technology was not available locally then," Valencia said.

And because CCBPI products are highly visible and the logos printed in the company's packages are easy to recognize, the waste would be attributed to the company, he said.

Mission PET

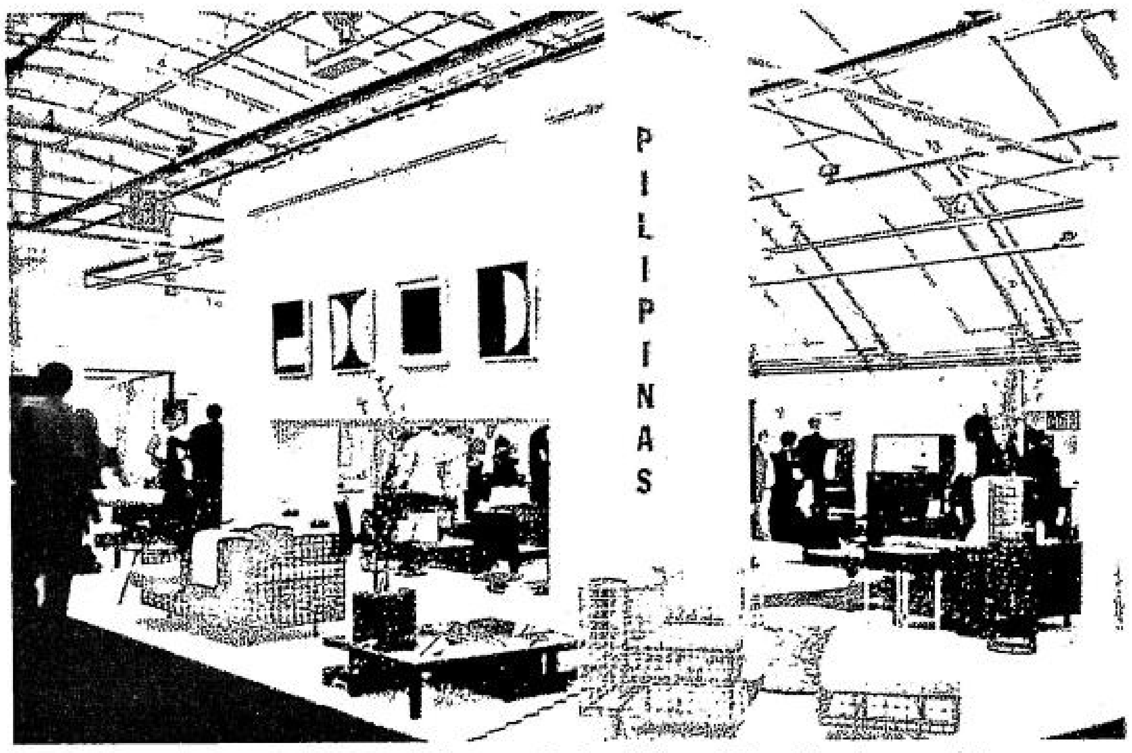
It was in this context that Mission PET was born in 2000 when the 1.5-liter non-returnable Coke bottle was introduced to the public, according to Valencia.

Valencia and Adoreno have

COKE'S/C2

Filipino's creativity creates niche in furniture industry

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao



ABOVE the rest, the Philippines has made a name in the middle to high-end furniture markets.

MOST Filipino business people would rather forget 2002.

To say that it was challenging is an understatement. Many entrepreneurs and bigger businesses had to grapple with a sluggish American and European export markets and the Philippines' own economic and political uncertainties.

The furniture industry, however, was one of the few bright spots in the manufacturing horizon as local firms were able to hold their own against traditional rivals in the Southeast Asian region, namely, Malaysia and Indonesia. All because of the Filipino's design superiority.

Data from the Chamber of Furniture Industries in the Philippines showed that total furniture exports from January to October last year reached $258.62 million, up a slight 4 percent from $249.53 million in the same period the previous year.

CFIP president Jose Leo Caparas tells Business Friday that the local furniture industry continued to get orders despite the weakening of the purchasing power of American and Japanese buyers because Filipino designs have always stood out from the rest.

Local furniture have found their way to the middle and high-end markets abroad like the United States, Japan, Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Australia, Saudi Arabia, France, Netherlands, the United Arab Emirates, Spain and Canada.

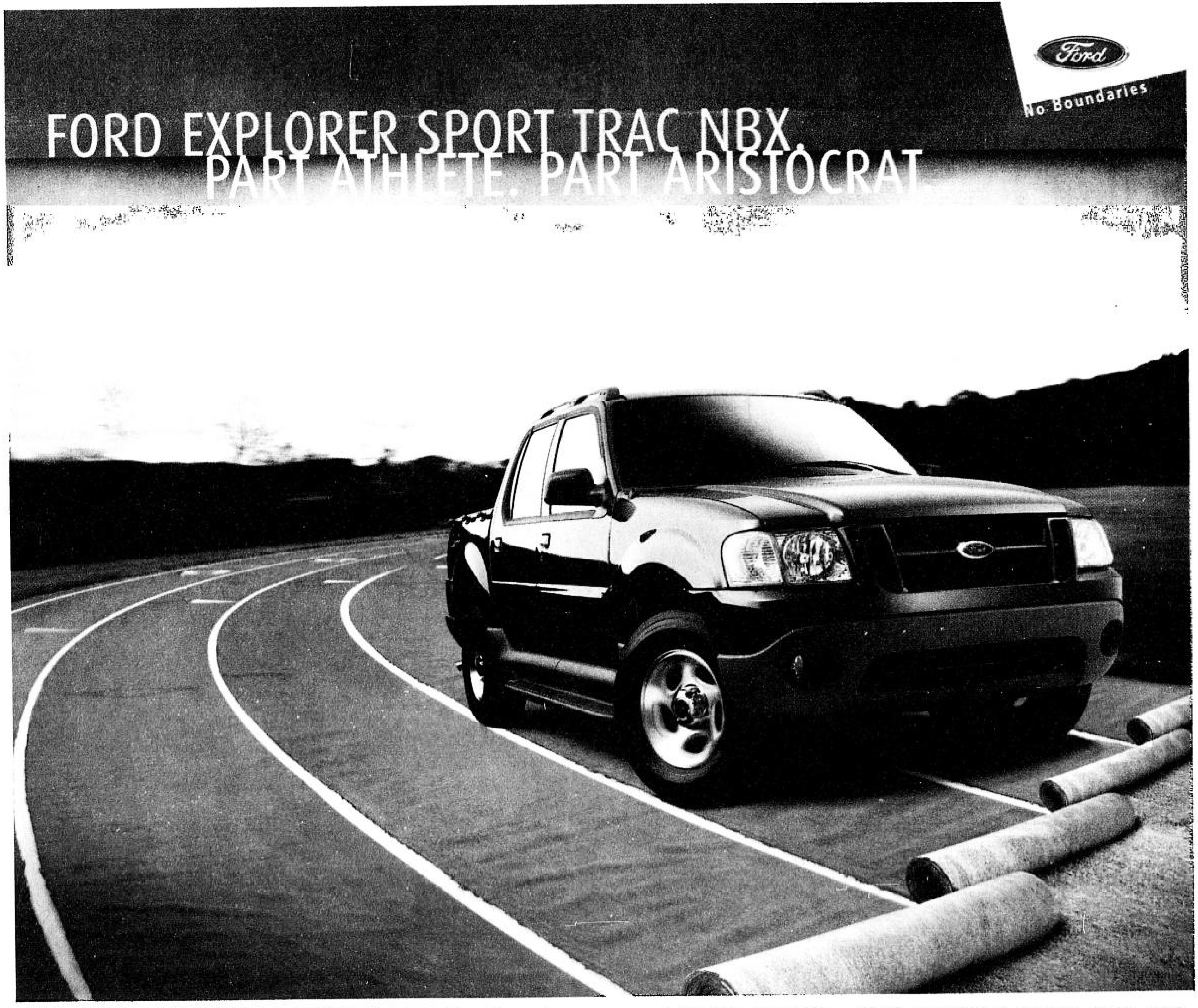
The US remained the biggest market, accounting for 67 percent of total exports, a significant 12.33 percent over the previous year's figure, considering that the US is suffering from weak economic activity and low consumer confidence.

Following the US is Japan and Great Britain.

Caparas says the Filipino's creativity was the saving grace for the industry because it gave Philippine firms a niche in the high-end furniture market, thus, selling prices tend to be higher compared to the products of competitors such as Malaysia and Indonesia.

These countries have made inroads into the middle to low-in

FILIPINO'S/C5



Sporty NBX Decal

Spacious Leather Interior

Optional Extendable Cargo Cage

It's like nothing you've ever seen, or met. Introducing a new breed of vehicle that combines luxury and toughness. Fit for nobility with premium leather seats and unexpected spaciousness. A tough SUV with a 4.0L SOHC engine, completely washable floors and a scratch resistant pick-up bed. Plus added versatility with an optional cargo cage.

4x2 NBX priced at P1.362M
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Baguio wins bid to host 18th Ad Congress

BAGUIO CITY—Unfazed by the city's water problems and a recent pollution report, the Advertising Board of the Philippines formally awarded to Baguio on Monday the rights to host the 18th Advertising Congress on Nov. 19-24.

Nicolas Tabora, chair of the Baguio Tourism Council (BTC), said Baguio reclaimed the hosting chore after seven years, beating Cebu, which hosted the last two congresses, Bacolod and Olongapo cities.

Baguio hosted the 11th Advertising Congress in 1995, which drew about 1,500 delegates to the Baguio Convention Center. The congress has been an industry venue for exploring and deconstructing the advertising market.

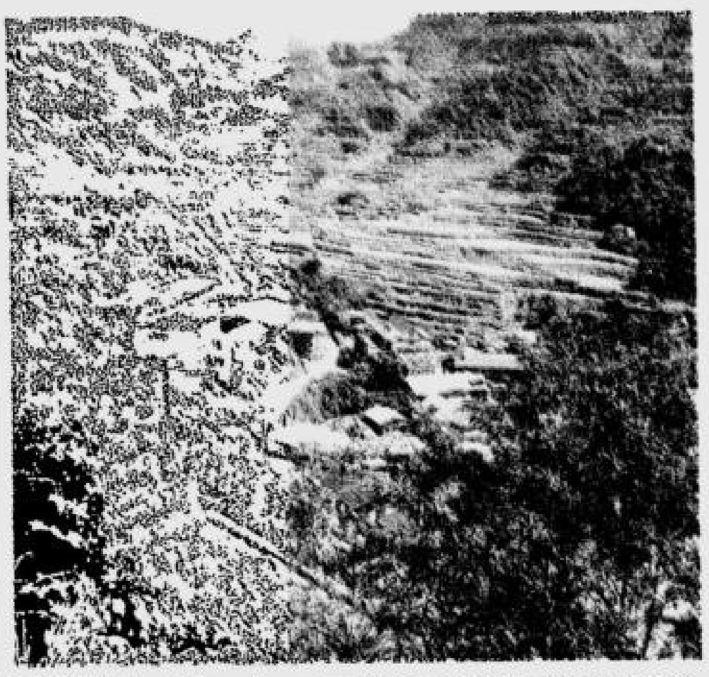
Tabora said the city won back the chore because it was able to offer the recently built CAP Convention Center at Camp John Hay. The center can house some 6,000 delegates.

He said Baguio's climate had always been an attraction one of the major factors that clinched the Advertising Board deal.

The board inspectors were also convinced that the city's 29 hotels could supply delegates with sufficient water by the end of the year, Tabora said.

Gillian Cortez, vice president of the Camp John Hay Development Corp., said the BTC officers presented to Mayor Bernardo Vergara the board's commitment letter from Eugenio Lopez III, chair of this year's congress.

The Advertising Congress is held every two years. In 2001, it was held in Cebu. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



DESPITE the city's water and pollution problems, the AD board decided to hold the congress in the City of Pines.

Grab market share via pricing and increased product visibility

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

SAMSUNG Electronics Phils. Corp. president Sang Youl Eom

A RELATIVE newcomer in the cell phone business is eyeing a 50 percent increase in local sales with or without a US-Iraq war.

"I am not sure about the future of the economic situation in the Philippines. But I am not pessimistic about the economic situation even if something happens in Iraq," says Samsung Electronics Phils. Corp. president Sang Youl Eom.

"Mobile phone demand is increasing and we only have a 10 percent market share, we can increase it some more," he adds.

Analysts point to a 10 percent increase in mobile phone demand per year until 2005.

The strategy for Samsung to achieve the 50 percent sales increase will be two-pronged—competitive pricing for its new models and increased visibility.

MARKETING STRATEGY

Samsung introduced its mobile phones in 2001. But Eom admits that initially their problem was availability. He says customers would complain that they could not find Samsung phone. So the firm put out over 2,000 racks to the dealers to increase visibility.

Eom said the hefty growth will also be fueled by the introduction of new mobile phones with cutting edge technology anchored in color and sound features. There will also be aggressive advertising for the new phones.

In the color features, for instance, the company just introduced phones of colored screens and up to 40 polyphonic ring tones.

The new models are the T-500, A-800, T-200, A-500 and T-400.

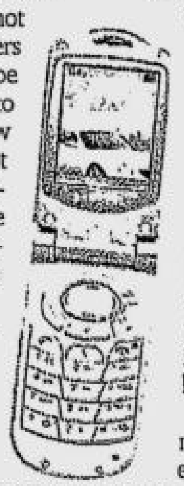
The T-500 is specificially targetted for women mobile phone users with its cubic zirconia encrusted outside; life function that includes a calorie counter, biorhythm, fatness index. The price tag is P23,900.

T500 has 32-cubic zirconia encrusted outside

Samsung targets only the high-end market for its cell phones, not the first time users who would only be willing to spend P4,000 to P5,000 for a unit. Of the new models they introduced last Tuesday, the cheapest is the A-800 which costs P13,900. The A-500 is P15,900; and the T-400 is P21,900. The T-200 is P21,100.

Samsung VP for sales and marketing Maengdal Bae says the new models were developed to highlight color and sound features such as 65,000 color screens up to 40 polyphonic ring tones.

Advertising for the new models started last Wednesday and Samsung's marketing people say the feedback has been very good with increased orders from the phone companies.



T200 is the first Dual Auto Folder Phone

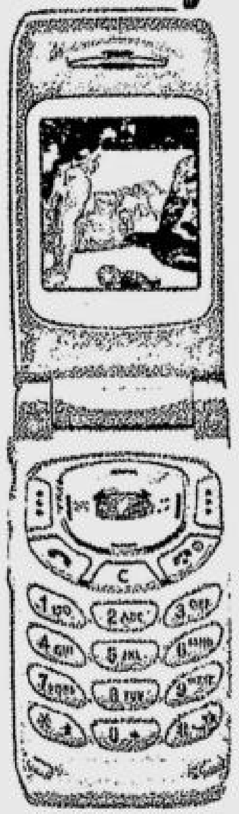
Some 3 million units of cell phones are sold in the Philippines every year and Nokia is the undisputed leader at the moment.

Samsung's new styles and technology however is slowly eating market share. Last year it sold more or less 200,000 units in the Philippines. Samsung is the world's third largest manufacturer of mobile phones accounting for 10 percent market share.

A800 stores 2,000 phonebook entries

It expects its new models that use cutting edge technology to give other phone firms tough competition.

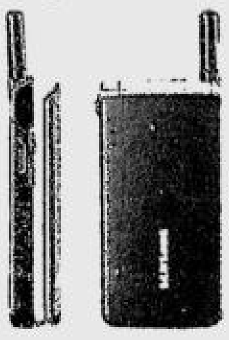
The cellphone boom in the Philippines started in the mid-90s when Smart, Piltel and Globe stormed the market with an array of new handset subsidies, subscription packages and cut-throat competitive gimmicks making the country one of the most attractive markets for cellphone manufacturers.



T400 features a 65,000 color screen

Samsung is a conglomerate of 63 subsidiaries, employs some 66,000 people in 46 countries. It consists of four main business units— telecommunciations, device solution, digital media and digital appliances.

In 2002, Samsung posted $34.4 billion in revenue and a net income of $6 billion. It contributes 12 percent to Korea's total export value.



A500 is slim at 80x38.9x 18.6mm

Selling local food using Filipino culture and lifestyles

By Michelle V. Remo

MARCO

WHILE many have adopted Western ways and styles in doing business, one restaurant continues to adhere to Filipino styles and culture and finds them to be a beneficial strategy.

This particular strategy, says Elisa Marco, overseer of the Kamayan Paseo de Roxas branch, elicits a good response from their customers.

Marco, manager of the 26-year-old Kamayan Restaurant along Pasay Road, says it has kept its style of making customers feel the local culture as soon as they step into the restaurant.

Upon entering, a customer is greeted by welcoming attendants complete with their hand gestures, which they call the "*maharlika*" greeting.

This, Elisa shares, is an expression of Filipinos' expressiveness in showing gladness to each other.

She says that Kamayan has also kept its buffet style of service because it makes customers feel more at home. "With the buffet style, customers are spared from thinking of what they want to eat; they just go to the service table and choose what they want as if they are in their own homes," says Elisa.

To complete the Filipino ambiance inside Kamayan, the restaurant has matched its Filipino style of service with interiors that speak of old Filipino homes.

The Kamayan branch in Pasay Road stands on a wooden floor and has wooden windows that depict the Filipino houses during the old Spanish era.

Male attendants wearing Barong Tagalog and female attendants wearing Kimona give customers, upon request, the "maharlika" way of washing hands after meals, which is called the "Romance of the Hands."

THE ROMANCE of the hands

In the Romance of the Hands, a customer's hands are poured with scented water that is sprinkled with rose petals, giving the customer a Filipino royalty service.

Knowing that Filipinos are lovers of music and to preserve the Filipinos' practice of "Harana," Kamayan employs a cultural group of singers that serenade customers with their guitars and lovely Filipino songs matching with their Filipino costumes.

"Many young people now only have a few knowledge of our own culture," says Elisa, and providing customers with the Filipino style of service is a way of preserving the Filipino heritage and rich culture.

But providing a Filipino style of service in the restaurant is not where Kamayan stops to promote the Filipino culture.

Promoting the Filipinos' talent and unique festivities, Kamayan also brings to the city the authentic Filipino celebrations in the provinces.

Performers of the Sinukuan Festival from San Fernando, Pampanga, were brought to Kamayan-Pasay Road to perform and entertain the customers last December. The performers were also made to parade in the nearby streets of Kamayan to entertain the neighborhood and introduce to the city dwellers a Filipino tradition from the province.

The Sinukuan is a street-dancing festival celebrated during the Christmas season and done in honor of the mythical figure King Sinukuan, who is said to be a lover of food and merry-making.

Aside from Sinukuan, the Pastores Festival from Bicol was also brought to the Kamayan last Christmas season. Performers of the Pastores were sponsored to go to Manila to perform for the customers of Kamayan so they would experience the unique rural festivity of Bicol.

The Pastores Festival is a reenactment of the search for the child Jesus by shepherds from Jerusalem. The reenactment comes with songs performed by the acting shepherds.

In line with its promotion of the Filipino culture, Kamayan has also tied up with the Department of Tourism to sponsor its activities related to the promotion of the country as a tourism hub.

Kamayan is also sponsoring the concert of young violinist Regina Buenaventura, in its effort to promote the Filipino youth culture.

"If only people would have time to look around, they would discover more wonders of the rich Filipino culture," says Elisa.

Chances are, your shirt came from soda bottles

From page C1

been visiting the CCBPI Calasiao plant and have linked up with the local environment group Kilusang Vigilante ng Pangasinan-Save the Paronking River Ecosystem Foundation for Mission PET.

The project promotes the collection and recovery of Coke's PET1 containers.

Mission PET also encourages the youth to collect and recover the PET1 containers, and links them with environment-related organizations. The project also mirrors CCBPI's active response to a critical social problem like solid waste management.

Valencia said when Mission PET started in 2000, the CCBPI negotiated with Now Trading Center in Muntinlupa City for the establishment of 11 recovery centers at selected outlets of Walter Mart, Liana's supermarkets and Tropical Hut supermarkets. More outlets were opened later.

Soon, not only PET1 bottles were collected, but also aluminum beverage cans that have a higher value. Valencia said this encouraged active participation by consumers in the recovery program.

Under the program, consumers get 50 centavos for every PET 1.5-liter or 2-liter container, or about P11 per kilogram of 11 pieces, and 50 centavos for every aluminum can, or P31 for every kg of 62 pieces.

"We have embarked on a vigorous information-education campaign through advertising, seminars, brochures, flyers, streamers, media press releases and feature articles. The campaign's goal is to create awareness that post-consumer aluminum cans and PET1 one way-bottles can be sold to the recovery centers or the junk shops for a price," the Mission PET paper said.

In some CCBPI plants, visitors, especially children, are asked to bring an empty PET bottle or used aluminum can to serve as their ticket to tour the facilities.

FOR THE past 21 months, the PET Recovery Centers have redeemed 4.2 million pieces of aluminum cans and 3 million PET containers. RAY ZAMBRANO

The Tahanang Walang Hagdanan (TWH) turns the aluminum materials into mobility aids.

There was a rumor when one has collected 1,000 aluminum tabs of Coke, Sprite or Royal, one would be entitled to a wheelchair from TWH.

"It was a myth, but squelch it, we never did," the Mission PET paper said.

But it explained that only 62 cans are needed to get a kilogram of aluminum, while 2,888 pieces of tabs (or 120 cases of Coke) are needed to come up with a kilogram of aluminum.

Results

From the findings in the mid-1990s that PET1 containers were not collected because there was no PET container recycling technology in the country, the CCBPI declared that Mission PET had contributed to "closing the loop" of recycling.

At present, there are companies that use PET recycling technology such as the Forever Fiber Corp. in Valenzuela City. The firm will produce polyester staple fiber, which is needed for the production of yarn for industrial garments and fibers.

In the first year, Forever Fiber will use 1,456 tons of used PET1 bottles, and by the fifth year, it will need 2,043 tons of used PET1.

Another company, the Multipet Corp., also in Valenzuela City, produces strapping materials, commonly called "plehe," from recycled PET1 wastes. The materials are used locally and abroad for strapping boxes or cargo such as those for mangoes, suha or durian.

Every month, the Metro Recycling Association exports 400 tons of PET1 flakes for the nonwoven factories in China and Korea to produce polyester for designer bags, shoes, jackets, carpets and comforters.

For used aluminum cans, the market is not a problem since these are recyclable. There are also big warehouses compacting the cans into 20-kg blocs for export to Japan, China, Malaysia and the United States.

For the past 21 months, the Mission PET Recovery Centers have redeemed 4.2 million pieces of aluminum cans and 3 million PET containers.

People, Events & Products

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Send love songs this Valentine via Touch Mobile

WHAT do Stephen Bishop's "On and On", Matt Monro's "Portrait of My Love", Frank Sinatra's "From Here to Eternity", and Jaya's "Wala na bang Pag-ibig?" have in common?

Aside from all of them being love songs that are sure to touch anyone's heart, they are also available now in Touch Mobile's Karaoke Service.

Touch Mobile subscribers who want to profess their love in a more novel unique way this season of hearts can now add spice and personal touch to their greetings by sending their friends and loved ones love songs they themselves have sung.

All they have to do is dial 8150 on their Touch Mobile cellphones, choose from 200 songs, sing and record the song chosen, then send it to a friend or loved one's mobile phone, regardless of the cellular network they subscribe to. This service is available to all Touch Mobile users; there's no need to register or change SIM cards.

They may also record a personal message and attach it to the song before sending it, or may opt to store the song and listen to it later on.

Once the song has been successfully delivered to the recipient, a text message will be received confirming the song's delivery.

The only GSM brand that features this unique service, Touch Mobile also has a list of other songs ranging from the most requested, OPM, pop and jazz to movie sound tracks.

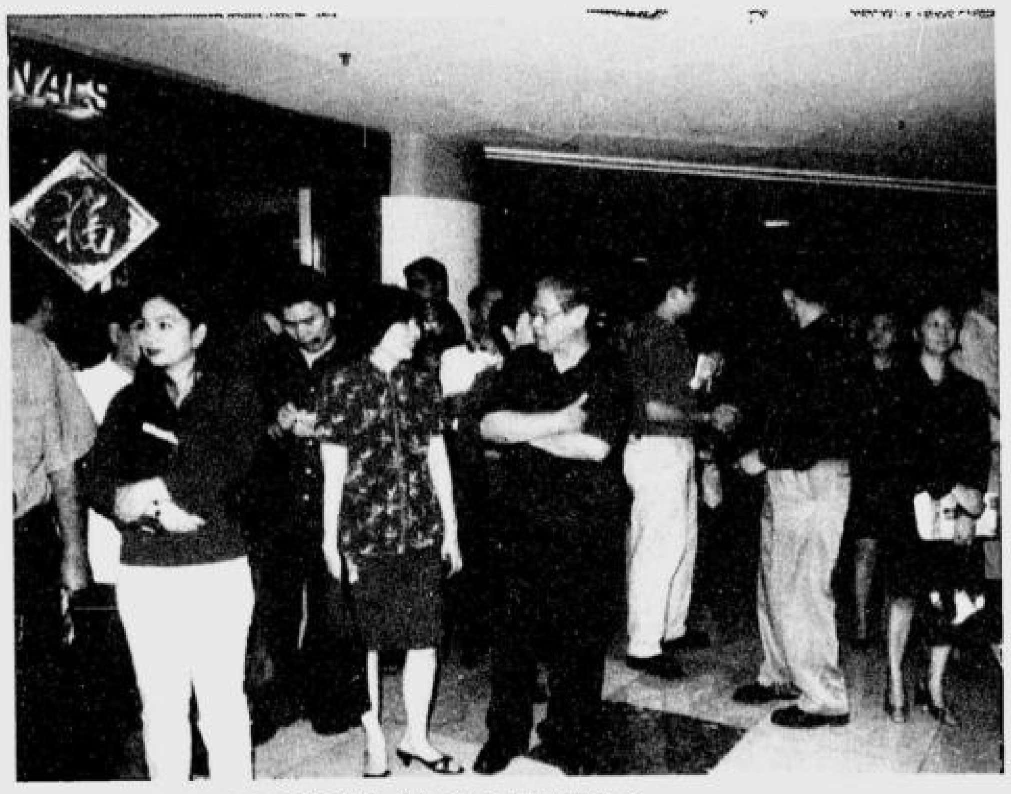
February being the love of the month, Touch Mobile has added around 50 new songs to its current roster to help its subscribers choose more appropriately the songs they want to sing and send.

Senders will be charged only P2.50 per minute spent recording the song and another P2.50 per minute for successful delivery of the song/message to the cell phone number.

Touch Mobile's other voice value added services are voice messaging and voice info.

Voice messaging allows subscribers to send sound icons, pre-recorded greetings like "I Love You", "Happy Birthday", etc. instantly or schedule delivery seven days ahead to any mobile user, A wide variety of icons, from birthday to friendship, anniversary and romance to special occasions such as Christmas, Easter, graduation, Mother's Day, and pre-recorded greetings made by celebrities, are available by dialing 8160. Rates are P3.00 per minute (navigation) and P3.00 for every successful delivery per recipient.

Touch Mobile's info service, on the other hand, provides subscribers all the information they need instantly or schedule its delivery at their preferred time and day by dialing 8140. Such information, which charges only P3.00 per minute, includes horoscope, games, showbiz news by Boy Abunda, daily gospel by Bishop Bacani, movies, traffic updates, weather, ABS-CBN news, sports, business and foreign news, tests on personality and compatibility and many more.



THE COLUMNS LAUNCH IN GLORIETTA 3

Buyers, guests, officials and property specialists of the Community Innovations Inc., an Ayala Land subsidiary, flock near the model units of The Columns, Ayala Avenue during the residential condominium complex's launch in Glorietta 3. The Columns, Ayala Avenue is a trio of 30-storey towers providing quality living for young urban achievers and their families. Dubbed an oasis in the city. The Columns, Ayala Avenue is located on the corner of Ayala Avenue and Sen. Gil Puyat (Buendia) Avenue and also hosts a multi-use podium featuring retail, recreational and parking spaces. Lion dancing clearly delivered the message of 'good luck, good fortune and good location' during the launch of The Columns.

CyberLaundry — 'Easy access to laundry convenience'

IN TODAY'S modern living, laundry service has become an important part of every busy Filipino. Through their valuable service, laundry shops have enabled people to maximize their time for other activities. It is more convenient and economical in the long run.

With this scenario, opportunities for the laundry business have emerged in different places nationwide. With various brands coming out in the market to fill in the demand for quality laundry service, there is one shop that offers more than your usual laundry service. CyberLaundry, combines the laundry with information technology service via computer rental, internet surfing and browsing, fax and photocopying services under one roof.

Established in 1999 along Washington Street in Barangay Pio del Pilar, Makati City, CyberLaundry has maintained its leadership in its area with 18 laundry shops at present. CyberLaundry's target market includes working professionals, residential clients and institutional accounts (restaurants, health spas and beauty salons). The rationale of this mixed-use service business is to provide customers, with out computers at home, an easy access to the internet highway.

Today, after four years in the business, CyberLaundry is into franchising. Mr Eric Caeg, franchise owner of CyberLaundry, said he established the brand to give prospective entrepreneurs a "multi-revenue" laundry shop that will give them a faster return on their investment. "Having a laundry franchise takes away the birth pains of trial and error in setting-up and operating the store." He signed up the first franchise along A. Maceda St., Sampaloc Manila, with Ms Emy Zornosa representing Zornosa-Factoriza Integrated Services Incorporated.

Mr Caeg explains that a CyberLaundry "turn-key" package starts at six hundred fifty thousand pesos (P650,000) it includes site evaluation, basic construction, equipment, training marketing materials, opening consumables. Furthermore, an applicant is required to choose a site with an average area of 30 to 50 square meters.

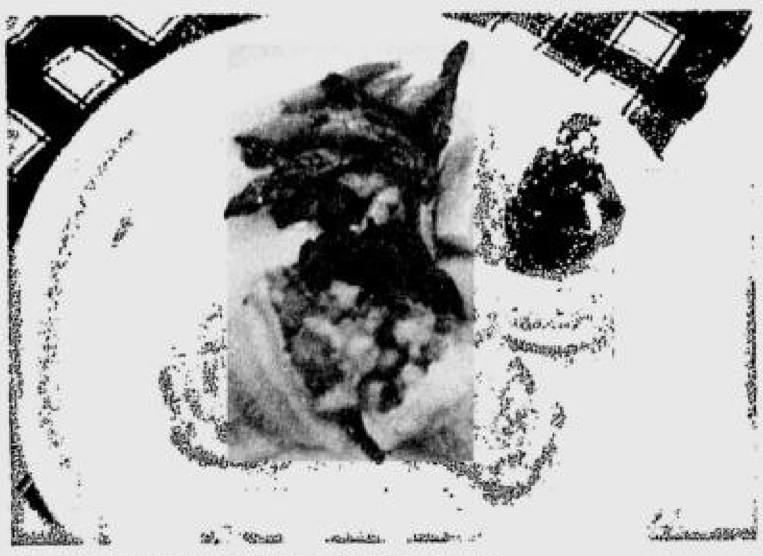
The laundry package includes 2 washers and dryers, steam iron with pressing board, while the business center package includes 3 internet-ready personal computers with peripherals, printer and photocopier.

For franchise support, CyberLaundry will conduct weekly visits to the franchise outlet to ensure that the business is on the right track. "We check out the status of the outlet and give proper advice whenever there are problems." Also, a unique feature of a CyberLaundry franchise is its "first three months" waiver of monthly service dues, this allow the franchisee to jump-start the business without worry.

For CyberLaundry franchise applicants or inquiries, call Ms Kristine Punzalan or Ms Mia Borromeo at 840-5957 from Monday to Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

CREATIVE CONCEPTS OPENS OUTLET

Metro Fashion Inc. recently opened another Creative Concepts outlet on the second level of Circle-C Mall along Congressional Road in Quezon City as part of its expansion program. The new store adopts a design that is practical and a merchandising concept that is shopper-friendly. It boasts of a wide range of top class merchandise at very popular prices. Present to welcome guests during the grand opening was the store's friendly team headed by area manager Bambi Tan (right) and sales coordinators (from left) Arwin Carida, Noligen Inoc and Jackilou Inoc. Creative Concepts is also set to open two more stores at Nepo Mall in Angeles City, Pampanga and at Zabarte Town Center in Fairview, Quezon City. Other Creative Concepts outlets are located at Designer Depot in Quirino Ave. and Shaw Blvd. and the men and ladies' section of Sta. Lucia East Mall, Landmark, Ever Gotesco (Grand Central Caloocan and Ortigas), Plaza Fair Pasong Tamo (Makati Cinema Square), Plaza Fair Cagayan de Oro City (Lim Ket Kai Center), Fairmart Cubao (Farmer Plaza) and JS Gaisano Davao City department stores.



JUST WHAT YOU HAVE IN MIND

Looking for a quiet and romantic setting for your valentine date? We know just what you have in mind. Come to Best Western Hotel La Corona and enjoy a sumptuous meal for two at only P450 net. From Feb. 10 to 28, Café Corona will serve chicken in orange sauce, with pearl mashed potatoes along with our choice of soup, salad and mouth-watering desserts. Best Western Hotel La Corona is located in M.H. Del Pilar corner Arquiza Streets, Manila. For reservations, please call 524-2631 to 38.

CAN'T WAIT TO HAVE IT TONIGHT

Victoria Court celebrates the month of love with a romantic full-course dinner for two. Come to any branch of Victoria Court from Feb. 10 to 28, and enjoy the mouth-watering shrimp-filled fish fillet with our choice of soup, salad and delightful desserts. All our servings are good for two and come at a special package rate of only P550 net. Meanwhile, from Feb. 12 to 15, all our suite guests will be given complimentary glasses of red or white wine whenever they order any of our food from our new menu selections. The Victoria Court branches are located in Pasig, Malate, North Edsa, Pasay and San Fernando Pampanga.

A romantic dinner done in style

CELEBRATE Valentine's Day with your special love in style. Get in a romantic mood at any LJC outlet, special set menus are offered to celebrate the night for lovers. Wine and dine with your loved one with a variety of menus to choose from. Order our Valentine's Special Menu and enjoy a bottle of Spanish red wine for only P350+(regular price P600).

Café Havana Malate - 1903 M. Adriatico Street, Remedios Circle Malate, Manila. For reservations, call 521-8097.

Café Havana Greenbelt – Greenbelt 3, Level 1 Ayala Center Makati City. For reservations, call 757-4371 or 70.

Mil Novecientos Tapas Bar & Bistro – 1900 M. Adriatico Street, Remedios Circle Malate, Manila. For reservations, call 521-6682.

Afrodisia Grill – 53-A Annapolis Street, Greenhills San Juan. For reservations, call 723-9705.

BITS & Clips

Healing mass with Fr. Joey Faller

THE BUKLOD ng Pag-Ibig Community invites everyone to join and take part in the Healing Mass to be officiated by Fr. Joey Faller on Saturday, Feb. 15, 9 a.m. at the Buklod ng Pag-Ibig Healing Center at 97 Balete Drive Extension, New Manila, Quezon City. Fr. Joey Faller is a renowned spiritual healer and is currently the chair of the National Service Committee, Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the Philippines. For inquiries, call 724-7534 and 724-7546.

Double treat for Highlands members

TWO GREAT shows await Highlands members on Saturday, Feb. 15. "Twilight at the Midlands" is an afternoon of classical music featuring legendary greats Oscar Yatco (violin), Nena Villanueva (piano) and Geronimo Velasco (cielo). Show starts at 5 p.m. at the Midlands Veranda. "RJ Rocks the Highlands" makes you relive the fun of rock and roll music of the '60s with RJ and Friends. Show starts at 9 p.m. at the Summer Garden, Highlands China Palace. For inquiries and reservations, call (046)413-2033.

PRSP 38th Anvil Awards

THE PUBLIC Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP), the premier professional organization of the country's public relations practitioners, will hold the 38th Anvil Awards "Gabi ng Parangal" on Feb. 21, Friday, at the Grand Ballroom of InterContinental Manila, Makati City. Highlights of the event will be the presentation of the Grand Anvil Award to the most outstanding PR Programs and the Bronze Anvil Award to the most outstanding PR Tools entries. Acknowledged as the Oscar of Public Relations, the Anvil Awards is the longest-running PR Awards event in the Philippines. For reservations, call the secretariat at 636-3242 and 636-3243.

Classical concert extols 'Only Love'

AT A time when the threat of war grips everyone around the world, it is but fitting to focus more on the need to love.

The richness of the Greek language is such that love can be any of the three kinds: eros—romantic love, filios—brotherly love, and agape—unconditional love. This notwithstanding, one is able to classify his feelings of love in more ways than one—that is, if he thinks about it. Otherwise, he is simply in awe at its complexity.

Love, with its many intricacies, has always been a favorite subject of poets and composers alike—the reason for so many beautiful songs.

The many moods, facets, and expressions of this complex, delightful and sometimes painful emotion will be extolled in a dinner concert of light opera arias, duets, Neapolitan, German, Spanish and Filipino classical songs in "Only Love" at the Manansala Ballroom of the Manila Galleria Suites on Sunday, Feb. 16 at 8 p.m. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m.

JOSCEPHINE Gomez (right) with Thea Perez and Carlos Perion

Presented by Yamaha and Sennheiser, in cooperation with 98.7 DZFE-FM, the Valentine concert features the combination of the voices of sopranos Joscephine Gomez and Thea Perez, to the accompaniment of classical pianist Carlos Perion, with Maribel Fernandez as host.

The two sopranos will sing lovely duets from two light operas: "Cosi fan Tutte" and "Le Nozze di Figaro", both by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. They will render popular classics such as Lehar's "The Merry Widow Waltz", De Curtis' "Torna a Surriento", Di Capua's "O Sole Mio," as well as current hits such as Quarantatto's "Con te Partiro" and Foster's "The Prayer".

Gomez will interpret "Chi sa, chi sa, qual sia", a concert aria by Mozart, "Widmung" by Schumann, "Be My Love" by Brodsky and "Ikaw" by George Canseco, while Thea Perez will perform "Liebestraum" by Lizst, "O mio babbino caro" by Puccini, "Il cabello mas sutil" by Obradors and 'Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin" by Louie Ocampo.

Gomez, who has taken up a number of post-graduate courses in Otorhinolaryngology in addition to her many years of training in the Philippines, in Germany and in Israel, is chief consultant of the Gomez Clinic for Voice Therapy and Rehabilitation and is consultant for the same allied medical specialty at Clinica Manila. She received the Parangal ng Bayan Award for Culture and the Arts in 1997 and is this year's Blue Falcon Awardee for Culture and the Arts.

Perez, who obtained a master's degree in voice from the Elisabeth University in Hiroshima, Japan, is with the faculty of the UST Conservatory of Music where she obtained her bachelor's degree.

UST-educated pianist Perion obtained his bachelor's degree in Music Education under a scholarship program. He teaches piano and accompanies musicians and choirs.

Sponsors are Galleria Fitness Center, Caring Colors and the Refinery Tailors for Men and Women. Hair is by Watercolors Salon.

Tickets may be obtained at Book Wagon at the 5th floor SM Megamall Building A, or at the 2nd floor of the Rockwell Powerplant Mall in Makati City. For details, call 687-7898 or 636-7544.

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People, Events & Products

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Romantic engagements at The Podium

MUSIC and love take centerstage at The Podium this Valentine, as some of the country's best classical performers celebrate romance in this upmarket mall in the Ortigas Center.

Enjoy an evening of romance and elegance with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra on Feb. 14 at 8 p.m. The 30-piece ensemble conducted by Rodel F. Colmernar, will delight audiences as it plays classical and popular love songs in a grand way, as only an orchestra can.

The celebration of love continues as tenor Nolyn Cabahug and soprano Rachelle Gerodias sing light classics and broadway favorites on Feb. 15 at 8 in the evening.

An acoustic romance, meanwhile, fills the mall as flutist Jong Cuenco and vocalist/guitarist Romy Jorolan perform an exciting repertoire of classic and light jazz favorites on Feb. 16 at 6 p.m.

Celebrate Valentine with these romantic engagements at Activity Center of The Podium, 18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center.

FLUTIST Jong Cuenco and vocalist/guitarist Romy Jorolan will perform their acoustic romantic strings on Feb. 16.

TENOR Nolyn Cabahug fills the mall with his powerful and enchanting voice with soprano Rachelle Gerodias on Feb. 15.

SOPRANO Rachelle Gerodias

ENJOY an evening of romantic music with Manila Philharmonic Orchestra at The Podium's activity area on Feb. 14.

THE MANILA Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Rodel F. Colmenar – founder, musical and principal director of MPO.

LOVE AT THE CENTURY PARK HOTEL

The Century Park Hotel and Candid Records Philippines in cooperation with Fortune Tobacco Corp. and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office will be presenting L.OV.E. 'Ladine on Valentine Evening.' Winner of the Voice of Asia 2001 Award in Kazakhstan – Miss Ladine Roxas performs in a one-night only concert at the Grand Ballroom of the Century Park Hotel on Feb. 14. With the special participation of boy band Jeremiah. Tickets at P1,200 – cocktails at 7 p.m. and show starts at 9:30 p.m. Ladine on Valentine Evening is also brought to you by Lone Star Light Beer, Ricky Reyes Hair Salon, 101.1 Yes FM, K91 FM, 90.7 Love Radio and IFM 93.9. Special thanks to Café Lupe.

MARTIN AND POPS VALENTINE CONCERT

Marie-France Bodyline International and Maxi-Media International present 'Martin and Pops in Concert' on Feb. 15. at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu, Feb. 21, 22 and 28 at the Araneta Coliseum, and March 1 at the Freedom Ring Amphitheater in Clark Pampanga. For 17 years in the Philippines, Marie-France continues to be the superior choice in non-strenuous, non-invasive and effective slimming for women who want to reveal slimmer, shapelier, sexier bodies. This February, you can achieve the figure you'd love to have with special slimming offers during Marie-France's 9th year of Shape Up Philippines from Feb. 17 to 28. Get ready to look shapely and sexy for your special someone and join Marie-France in celebrating the month of love with Martin and Pops. Set your appointment at Marie-France by contacting the branch nearest you: 816-1262 (Makati), 687-1216 (Ortigas), 372-6635 (Timog), 242-2199 (Binondo), 809-9619 (Alabang), 534-5898 (Shaw), 920-8021 (Congressional), 961-2981 (Pampanga) and 233-7637 (Cebu).

Hajji and Rachel Alejandro at Tagaytay

THE ORIGINAL "Kilabot ng Kolehiyala," Hajji Alejandro teams up with his daughter, songstress Rachel Alejandro in a rare reunion as they perform an evening of memorable music on Feb. 15, at Casino Filipino-Tagaytay.

Known for such hits as "Kay Ganda ng Ating Musika", "Nakapagtataka", "Panakip Butas" and much more, Hajji Alejandro's songs were part of the hits that would coin the phrase, OPM (Original Filipino Music). His hits have remained timeless and throughout the years with countless remakes and revival, there is only one, Hajji Alejandro.

Daughter, Rachel Alejandro returns to the entertainment stage after a successful run as the energetic Mimi in the Asian version of the Tony award winning musical "Rent" in Manila, Hong Kong and Singapore. Gifted with a rich voice, effervescent personality and scintillating stage presence, she has always fascinated audiences here and abroad for the past decade.

The father and daughter tandem will surely fascinate the audience with their brand of enchanting music.

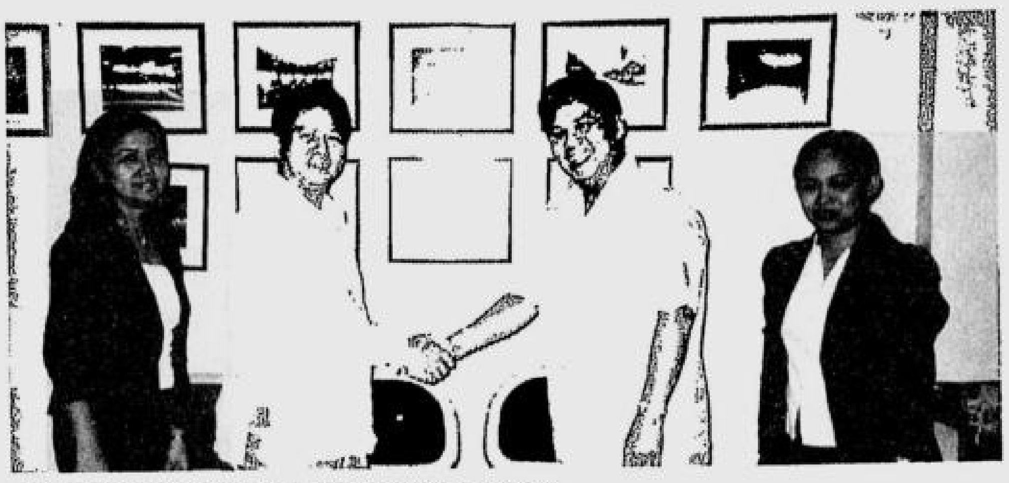
The concert entitled "Like Father, Like Daughter" is produced by Events & Shows Inc. in cooperation with Casino Filipino-Tagaytay, Athena Non-Fat, Hi-Calcium Milk for Women, Air 21, Woman Today and sponsored in part by Sunrise Holiday Mansion, Bag of Beans-Tagaytay, McDonalds – Tagaytay, MC Mountain Home Apartelle, Henry Q. Ferrer Photography, RCJC Flower Shop and The Haus of Binalot. Media partners are RX 93.1, Citylite 88.3 and Magic 89.9. Tickets available in all SM Ticketnet outlets, Sunrise Holiday Mansion-Tagaytay and Casino-Filipino-Tagaytay Concierge Section. Ticket holders are entitled to 50 percent discount on room accommodation with free breakfast at Sunrise Holiday Mansion Tagaytay on the concert day itself. You may call (046) 4131103. Ticket prices at P1000, P800 and P600. Show starts at 8:30 p.m.

NSP APPOINTS NEW MARCOM OFFICER

Nu Skin Philippines Inc. (NSP) announces the appointment of its new marketing and communications manager, Arlene Asidao. Arlene joined NSP late last year and was signed to lead a group of competent staff to implement effective strategies that will help strengthen the sales and brand image of the products under Nu Skin, Nu Skin Enterprises Inc.'s personal care division, and Pharmanex, its nutritional supplement division. Likewise, Arlene will handle various special events for the NSP's distributors. Prior to joining NSP, this alumna of Ateneo University has held key positions in some topnotch companies. Her vast experience has helped her gain expertise in different aspects of marketing such as brand management, new product development, direct selling business and more. Now with her new position, Arlene hopes to deliver substantial contributions to the Nu Skin's growth. Nu Skin Philippines Inc. is an affiliate of Nu Skin Enterprises Inc., a leading global multi-level marketing company that offers more than 100 premium personal care and nutritional products. NSP is the 6th market in Asia and the 24th worldwide.

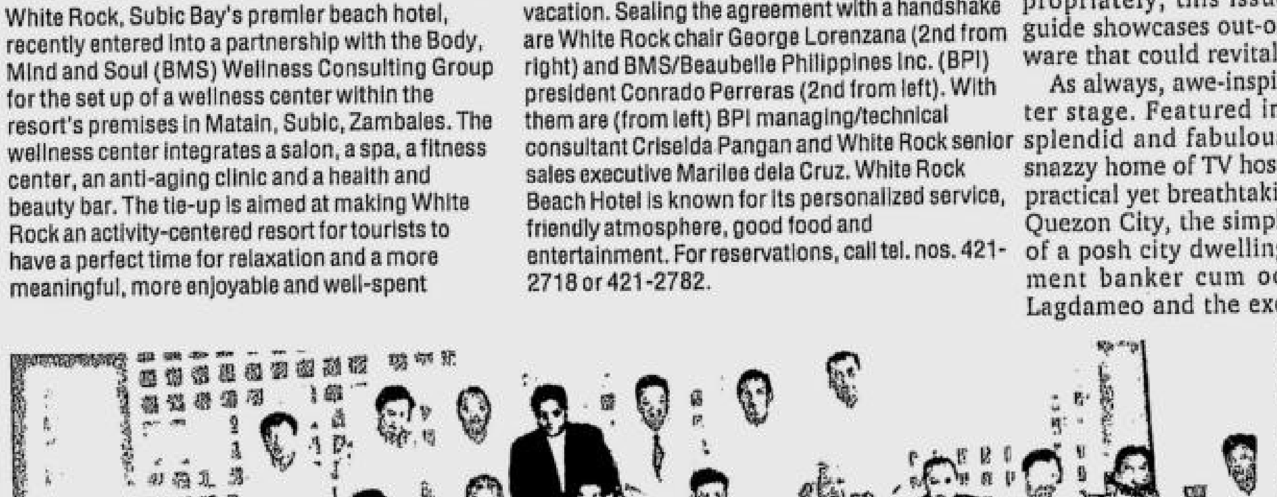
TRIUMP LAUNCHES THE COSMETIC BRA

Triumph International launched yet another revolutionary breakthrough in intimate wear – the Cosmetic Bra. Heralded as 'the bodywear that cares,' the bra has been acclaimed for its pioneering fabric technology. For the first time ever, the natural moisturizer, aloe vera, has been infused into the bra's fabric – thereby giving its wearers a softer and silkier sensation. The 'triumphant' press launch was held at the Edsa Shangri-La's Grand Ballroom. The guests were welcomed by Mr Gary Quemado, Triumph's director for sales and marketing; managing director Mr Alfredo M. Escueta; as well as Triumph International Overseas Ltd.'s Joyce Lui; regional head Mr Wolfgang Kruecker; and vice director Gerald Lessle. Present during the event were (from left): Andrea del Rosario, actress/model; managing director (Triumph) Mr Alfredo M. Escueta; and Lara Fabregas, actress/model.



WELLNESS CENTER AT WHITE ROCK

White Rock, Subic Bay's premier beach hotel, recently entered into a partnership with the Body, Mind and Soul (BMS) Wellness Consulting Group for the set up of a wellness center within the resort's premises in Matain, Subic, Zambales. The wellness center integrates a salon, a spa, a fitness center, an anti-aging clinic and a health and beauty bar. The tie-up is aimed at making White Rock an activity-centered resort for tourists to have a perfect time for relaxation and a more meaningful, more enjoyable and well-spent vacation. Sealing the agreement with a handshake are White Rock chair George Lorenzana (2nd from right) and BMS/Beaubelle Philippines Inc. (BPI) president Conrado Perreras (2nd from left). With them are (from left) BPI managing/technical consultant Criselda Pangan and White Rock senior sales executive Marilee dela Cruz. White Rock Beach Hotel is known for its personalized service, friendly atmosphere, good food and entertainment. For reservations, call tel. nos. 421-2718 or 421-2782.



SIGNING OF AGREEMENTS FOR 'AKSYON PADAYON'

Agreements for the trusteeship, guarantee and underwriting of Masbate City's P160 million, seven-year 'Aksyon Padayon' bonds, which will fund the construction and development of the Masbate City fish complex project were recently signed at simple rites held at the RCBC Plaza in Makati City. Among the signatories were, fifth from left: Preferred Ventures Corp. president Danilo V. Fausto, RCBC president and COO Valentin A. Araneta, Masbate City Mayor Socrates M. Tuason, RCBC executive vice chair and CEO Cesar Virata, Philippine Veterans Bank president and CEO Ricardo A. Balfido Jr., and RCBC Capital Corp. president and CEO Raul M. Leopando.

'Living the Good Life' featured in Earth + Style My Home magazine

TO CELEBRATE the dawning of a new year, cocktail party settings and other super stylish looks are some of Earth+Style My Home magazine's offerings for its first issue for 2003. Demonstrating their flair for table settings are TV personalities Ces Oreña-Drilon and Daphne Oseña-Paez, among others. Appropriately, this issue's home accessory guide showcases out-of-the-ordinary tableware that could revitalize any abode.

As always, awe-inspiring homes take center stage. Featured in this issue are: the splendid and fabulous Ablaza abode, the snazzy home of TV host Paolo Bediones, the practical yet breathtaking Florendo home in Quezon City, the simplified transformation of a posh city dwelling courtesy of investment banker cum occasional stylist Le Lagdameo and the exotic and artistic garden of fashion designer Ernest Santiago.

Published by Earth+Style Corporation, the lifestyle property developer, in cooperation with Mega Magazine and Publications Inc. (MMPI), Earth+Style My Home continues to make beautiful Filipino lifestyles happen. Earth+Style My Home is available bi-monthly in newsstands, bookstores and specialty shops nationwide for P125.

BITS of Clips

Job evaluation, salary design seminar

MAGNITUDE Human Resource Development, a training organization specializing in people development, announced its seminar-workshop titled "Job Evaluation and Salary Administration Seminar" at the Horizon Edsa Hotel (Mandaluyong City) on Feb. 20 and 21. Topics for this seminar include Job Analysis, Job Description Writing, Developing a Job Rating Plan, Salary Survey Analysis, and Salary Structure Design. Participants will gain the skills in installing a fair and objective JE Program. For details and reservations, call 826-2539 and 825-0278. The resource speaker, Rafael Z. Perfecto, FPM, held top-level human resource positions in local and multinational firms, was former director of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) and a fellow in Personnel Management (FPM).

Potluck flair

SAN MIGUEL Pure Foods Culinary Center invites you to a free cooking demonstration to help you lengthen your choices whenever you are tasked to bring your specialties at potluck parties. The cooking demo will be held at SM Southmall on Feb. 21 at 3 p.m. This demonstration will definitely be easy with the help of Magnolia Cheeses, Butter or margarine and products from Pure Foods Hormel, Monterey and Magnolia Chicken in your recipes. And there will even be more raffles from San Miguel Pure Foods. For inquiries, just log on to www.mygreatfood.com.

Foodservers training set

BE A good foodserver in just five days. A Basic Foodservers Training has been set by ProActive Center for Training (PACT) from Feb. 17 to 21, 2 to 6 p.m. at Bedas Restaurant, C-5, Libis, Quezon City. Registration and inquiries are accepted on a first-come-first-served basis at 787-6370 or 0919-5500601, or e-mail pactserv@yahoo.com. Only 20 participants will be accommodated. Seminar fee is P2,200 per participant inclusive of handouts, snacks, certificate of completion, and workshop materials and equipment. Free shuttle service from SM Megamall to the venue and back will be provided.

VAT on professionals

TAX-FILES

By Mary Ann C. Capuchino
SGV & Co.

(Last of a series)

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue may need to clarify the effect of the extension of the deadline for professionals to register with the BIR, in so far as their value added tax liabilities are concerned.

There may also be a need for the BIR to clarify whether professionals will be allowed to claim input tax credits on their purchases from VAT-registered suppliers made between Jan. 1 and Feb. 28, assuming that they register on Feb. 28.

The annual registration fee is presently P500 for every distinct establishment or place of business. Professionals as taxpayers are required to register their business only once before starting their business. Succeeding annual payments should be made not later than Jan. 31.

The principal place of business, where individuals are required to register for VAT purposes, shall be the place where the head or main office is located and where the books of accounts are kept.

In the case of general professional partnerships/corporations, the principal place of business shall refer to the place where the head or main office is located as appearing in the Articles of Corporation/Partnership.

Transition period

Under the regulations, professionals subject to VAT starting Jan. 1, 2003 are required to comply with certain requirements on top of the registration.

An inventory of unused non-VAT receipts as of Dec. 31, 2002 must be submitted indicating the number of booklets and the corresponding serial numbers on or before Jan. 31, 2003. Unused non-VAT receipts can be used in transactions subject to VAT until June 30, provided the phrase "VAT-registered as of ___" is stamped on all copies.

Amounts due on services rendered by professional on or before Dec. 31, 2002 shall still be considered as accrued as of Dec. 31, 2002, for the purpose of VAT exemption and payment of applicable percentage tax, subject to the following conditions:

a) An information return shall be filed showing the name/s of the contractee/s, client/s, customer/s, and the amount/s of the contract price outstanding as of Dec. 31, 2002 with a declaration that the applicable percentage tax due, if any, will be paid;

b) The seller billed the unpaid amount not later than Dec. 31, 2002 and a copy of the billing is attached to the information return (as previously mentioned);

c) The seller has recorded in its book for the year 2002 the amount of receivable;

d) The seller issued or should issue non-VAT invoice and/or receipt to the buyer on these transactions, and

e) The seller files on or before the 20th day of the month following the month of collection, the regular percentage tax return for the payment of the percentage tax on collections received after 2002 (applicable to brokers).

Failure by professionals to comply with these requirements shall automatically subject the gross receipts they receive after Dec. 31, 2002 to VAT.

Transitional input tax credits

For professionals (other than brokers) subject to VAT, a presumptive input tax equivalent to 8 percent of the value or actual value-added tax paid, whichever is higher, shall be allowed as credit on goods (other than capital goods), materials or supplies purchased for use in business as of Dec. 31, 2002.

For this purpose, professionals are required to file an inventory of the goods, materials and/or supplies as of Dec. 31, 2002 showing the quantity, description and value with the RDO not later than Jan. 31, 2003.

Moreover, in recognizing the presumptive input tax as of Dec. 31, 2002, a journal entry should be made in the books debiting the input tax account.

In the case of brokers, any input tax outstanding in their books as of Dec. 31, 1999 and still unused as of Dec. 31, 2002 shall be allowed as transitional input tax.

The transitional input tax may be credited against the professionals' output VAT.

Issuing receipts

On each sale of services, professionals are required to issue a duly registered official receipt (OR) which must show the name, TIN and address of the taxpayer, the date of transaction, nature of service, the payment and his VAT-registration number.

The receipt should be prepared at least in duplicate, the original to be given to the buyer and the duplicate to be retained by the professional in his accounting records.

As VAT-registered persons, professionals are also required to keep the subsidiary sales and purchases journal in the form prescribed by the BIR, in addition to the regular accounting records required under the Tax Code. These books should be registered with the BIR prior to their use. They are also required to file monthly VAT declarations for the first two months of the quarter and a quarterly VAT return after the end of the quarter (including quarterly summary lists of sales and purchases).

The VAT on professionals and on other persons subject to VAT is generally done through the " pay-as-you-file" system where the VAT taxpayer fills up the applicable VAT declaration/return and pays the indicated amount. The amount of VAT due, if any, should be paid and remitted to the BIR on or before the deadline prescribed by the BIR.

Be aware

This discussion is not intended to be a complete discussion of the VAT requirements for professionals and there may still be additional requirements which the BIR may impose.

It has been said that ignorance of the law is not an excuse to avoid one's liability. Thus, it is advisable for professionals who will be subject to VAT for the first time to be familiar with these requirements to avoid deficiency taxes and penalties.

The VAT system is generally considered to be a better tax system because it provides the BIR with more opportunities to track down delinquent taxpayers.

In the case of purchases made by a VAT-registered seller from a VAT registered supplier (where corresponding input taxes paid are claimed as input tax credits in the seller's VAT returns), these can be easily matched with the sales (and corresponding output tax) reported by the VAT registered supplier of goods or service in his VAT return for the same period.

The key to a more efficient VAT system is, therefore, for the buyers of goods and services, especially those who are VAT registered, to always get the VAT official receipt (for purchase of services) or VAT sales invoice (for purchase of goods).

If all buyers of goods and services will request the official receipt or sales invoice, the seller may eventually not have any choice but to register with the BIR and eventually start paying proper taxes.

Filipino's creativity creates niche in furniture industry

From page C1

come markets by concentrating on cheaper, mass-produced furniture.

"Our designs are unique because we are able to use different materials in the furniture like leather and abaca or metal and rattan. This ability to come up with something new makes Philippine products different from the rest," Caparas explains.

He says that this innate creativity is also the main protection the industry has against China, which is churning out cheap furniture for the world market at white-hot speed.

"China need not be a threat, but an opportunity because it is a huge market. We are in a good position because China is in the middle of a construction boom. It is putting up a lot of hotels and recreation facilities and we are ideally positioned because of the kind of our furniture," he says.

Aside from China, high-end Philippine furniture is also finding its way to some parts of the Middle East, which is also putting up a lot of resort facilities.

Caparas, however, stresses that the Philippines cannot rely on the middle to high-end markets alone. There is a need, he says, to fight toe-to-toe for the bigger and growing mass market.

The Philippines also has to look for ways to improve productivity so that it could produce more products to meet the demand.

"We used to be number one in the Asean region in terms of productivity but we are now one of the lowest because the governments of the other countries helped grow their furniture industry," he says.

He says the government, for instance, could encourage the widespread plantation of the jemelina tree, which is an ideal raw material for the furniture industry.

"I believe that it is even better than the rubber wood which is used in Malaysian furniture and yet Malaysia is doing so well. We just need support," he says.

In the meantime, the furniture industry will continue to enhance its image in its main market, and foreign and local buyers will have the chance to see the latest trends in the forthcoming Philippine International Furniture Show to be held in the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga from Feb. 28 to March 3.

About 200 exhibitors will showcase export standard furniture and home accessories to more than 500 buyers that have already registered to attend the country's biggest furniture show.

Buyers will get to see the latest trends in materials, products and designs that have made Philippine furniture among the best in the world.

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Globelines

RP gets a bronze in NY advertising awards

By Roger Pe
Contributor

JIMENEZ D'Arcy's "Bowls" public service television ad, an outstanding and highly visible campaign about breast cancer prevention, landed among the world's bests and won a bronze for the Philippines in the 45th New York International TV & Cinema Advertising Awards. The awarding was held at a gala ceremony at The Mariott Marquis Hotel in New York City last Jan. 31.

The same ad for I Can Serve Foundation won the Creative Guild of the Philippines Diwa Television Ad of the Year last year and bagged a gold in the last Ad Congress.

As breast cancer evokes predictable imagery, (breasts, women, mammograms and other permutations), Jenny Lao-Pastor, the award-winning art director who designed the ad says "this commercial chooses simple imagery to lay down a simple message: Don't risk it. Your life's no shell game. The message hit home with many women who called the foundation (I Can Serve) for assistance. The ad also spawned more commercials from television stations and other foundations advocating breast cancer awareness."

Creative director/copywriter of the ad was Raoul Panes, producer (Paul Suarez) and director and cinematographer was Jesse Pastor, Jenny's husband.

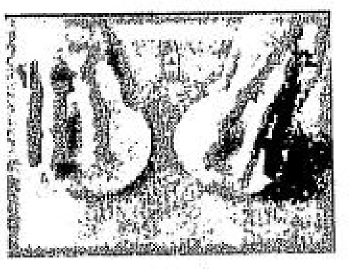
Basic Advertising's "Color Bars" for Dole Pineapple Juice, TBWA-Santiago, Mangada & Puno's "Biker" for Burlington and Leo Burnett's "Dada" and "Lolo" for McDonald's were the only other Philippine finalists from among thousands of entries worldwide.

Most awarded network

BBDO agencies worldwide won top honors with a total of six Gold WorldMedals, with BBDO New York scoring five for celebrity-bedecked spots in the travel and tourism category, and for M&M's "Hotel" in the confectionery/snacks category. BBDO Portugal took home a gold for Optimus Telecom's "Sofa" campaign.

Arnold Worldwide Boston won four Gold WorldMedals including: "Sidewalk Director/Film festival," a Volkswagen Cinema Commercial featuring a film fanatic interrupting a lover's spat with directorial suggestions, and "Ratman"/"Dogwalker-Poo"/"Urinal"/"American Legacy, a package of health and hygiene public service ads which make a powerful connection between dog feces, rat poison, human urine and the chemicals found in cigarettes. Other Arnold Worldwide wins were "TDI TV-Getting Warmer/Cowboy/Hat/Bands (automotive) and "Keep Young and Beautiful" for National Cancer Research Alliance.

Leo Burnett and DDB agencies worldwide tied with three golds each. Leo Burnett Chicago won for "Interview"/"Table"/"Why," a package of public service ads for Ad Council/Underground Railroad Freedom Center urging tolerance and diversity; Leo Burnett Brazil won for "Old Man" for Brazilian Pediatric Society which strikes a telling blow at child abuse and Leo Burnett Peru was honored for "Luck Exists: High Jump/Bullfight/Bowling" for La Tinka Lotto.



I CAN SERVE "Bowls"

Client:	I Can Serve Foundation
Agency:	Jimenez D'Arcy
Copywriter:	Raoul Panes
Art Director:	Jenny Lao
Producer:	Paul Suarez
Accounts:	Randy Aquino
Production House:	Filmex
Director:	Jessie Pastor
Cinematographer	Jessie Pastor
Music / Soundtrack:	Jessa Usatan

"BOWLS" public service TV ad.

Tandem DDB Madrid took two golds for "Origins"/International Year of Gaudi/Ayuntament De Barcelona (corporate image) and "Little Girl/Wife/Father/Monopoly for Hasbro while Zegers DDB received a gold for "Intercom" for Sindelen vaccum cleaner.

The other multiple Gold WorldMedallists with two awards each were Gartner, Santa Monica for "My Life Story" for Hallmark and "I Corinthians 12/Hands" for Habitat for Humanity; Harvest Santa Monica for "Nail Gun/Boat/Leafblower" for Fox Sports and "Nail Gun" (best humor) for Fox Sports; Ogilvy & Mather Chicago, Wurmser Ogilvy & Mather Guatemala and Euro RSCG Milan.

The United States captured four "Best of Show" honors, among them Harvest Santa Monica's slapstick tour de force campaign for Fox Sports, Arnold Worldwide's absurd, slice-of-life opus for Volkswagen of America, Leo Burnett Chicago's three powerful ads showing innocent people caught up in the ugly specter of racism, and Plum Productions Santa Monica's spot for Land Rover which reveals extraordinary versatility of "the most well-traveled vehicle on earth" as it turns up everywhere from the opera to an archeological dig.

Judging for the "Best of Show" grand awards was held in New York City on Jan. 29 by members of The New York Festivals Board of Distinguished Judges and Advisors. Judging for the 2002 TV and Cinema Advertising Awards competition was conducted by panels of creative directors, art directors, copywriters, film directors and producers in cities throughout the United States and Canada. Panels in Finland, Hong Kong, Korea, Mexico, The Netherlands, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Slovenia, Panama, Malaysia and Indonesia also participated.

The New York Festivals received more than 13,000 entries from 54 countries in 2002. Founded in 1957, it ranks among the most heavily subscribed and prestigious awards shows worldwide.

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THE FRENCH BAKER

Seeking superhero returns in comic book market

ATLANTA—Superman may be faster than a speeding bullet and more powerful than a locomotive, but can he save your portfolio from the ravages of a weak economy and declining stock market?

For some investors, the answer is a hopeful "Yes."

Demand for high-priced vintage comic books featuring the Man of Steel, Batman and other crime-fighting superheroes is growing as baby boomers and others spooked by the downward spiral of stocks flee traditional investments.

Stephen Fishler, co-owner of New York City's Metropolis Collectibles, one of the nation's largest dealers of pre-1970 comic books, said his business is booming in large part because vintage comics have become a safe place to park money.

Indeed, investors who paid $80,000 in 1992 for a copy of the coveted Detective Comics No. 27, which features the 1939 debut of Batman, would have seen their investment soar to $300,000 late last year, a 14-percent annual rate of return.

In comparison, the Standard & Poor's 500 Index, considered a benchmark for US equities, had an annual rate of return of about 9.3 percent during that 10-year span. The index has declined, however, in each of the last three years.

"Investors are looking at what they once considered blue-chip portfolios drop further and further and they're throwing up their hands and changing stream," said Fishler, who helped Oscar-winning actor Nicholas Cage amass a $1.6-million comics collection in the 1990s.

Like many counter-cyclical investments, the market for vintage comics, rare coins and stamps tends to rise during periods of economic turmoil and political uncertainty.

Interest in these collectibles was muted in the 1990s when the US economy boomed and investors made heady profits plowing money into high-flying tech stocks and Internet start-ups.

But the bursting of the tech bubble, followed by the devastating economic impact of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States and the ensuing accounting scandals that engulfed corporate America brought buyers back with a vengeance.

Publicity from the mega-hit "Spider-Man" and "Batman" movies also focused more attention on comics as an investment vehicle. Last summer, the Heritage Capital Corp. reported a record $5.2 million in sales from a weekend comic book auction in Chicago.

"Everything is selling. It's a huge boom," said Steve Borock, who helps authenticate and grade the condition of comics for Comics Guarantee LLC, a company based in Sarasota, Florida.

Although demand for vintage comics is a global phenomenon, Americans account for the lion's share of high-end trading.

The comic book is believed to have originated in the United States in the late 19th century. Originally targeted at children, it caught on with adults in the 1930s after the introduction of Superman, Flash Gordon and other serious characters.

These days classics from that golden era are traded through dealers or on the Internet, which is home to dozens of discussion groups for aficionados of the popular art form. Online auction site eBay offers more than 15,000 comics for sale at any given time.

Despite the prospect of frothy returns, financial advisers caution that dabbling in comics and other collectibles poses enormous risks for the novice investor.

Those who ignore the finer points of a comic book, such as its condition, print run and artist's reputation, can end up with what amounts to a worthless pile of paper as well as a sizable hole in the wallet. *Reuters*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

D1

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LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Trend Spotting

LORÉAL

Pedal to the metal

The people and science behind the business on pages O1 to O4

Holistic gems are hot

PAGE L1

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CUBAO - 49 ANNAPOLIS ST., 912-5852 (nr. Aurora Blvd)
DILIMAN - 130 Kalayaan Ave., 924-2689 (nr. Q.C. Hall)

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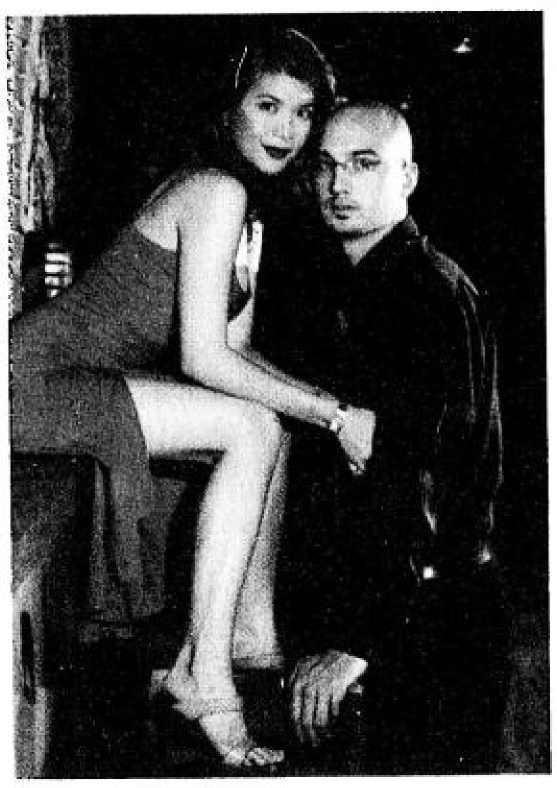

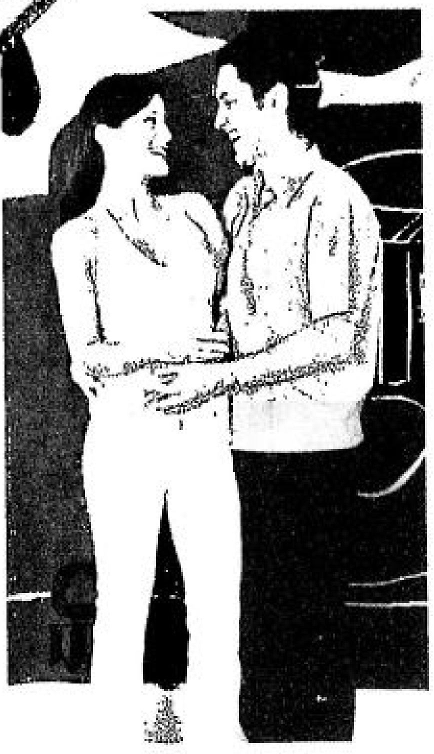

Sweetheart deals, sweethearts real

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Cool RTW for the coming summer

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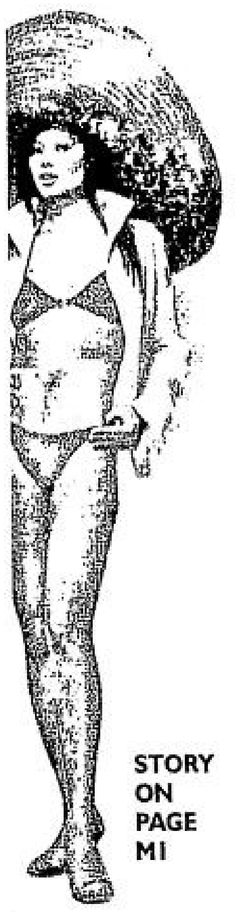
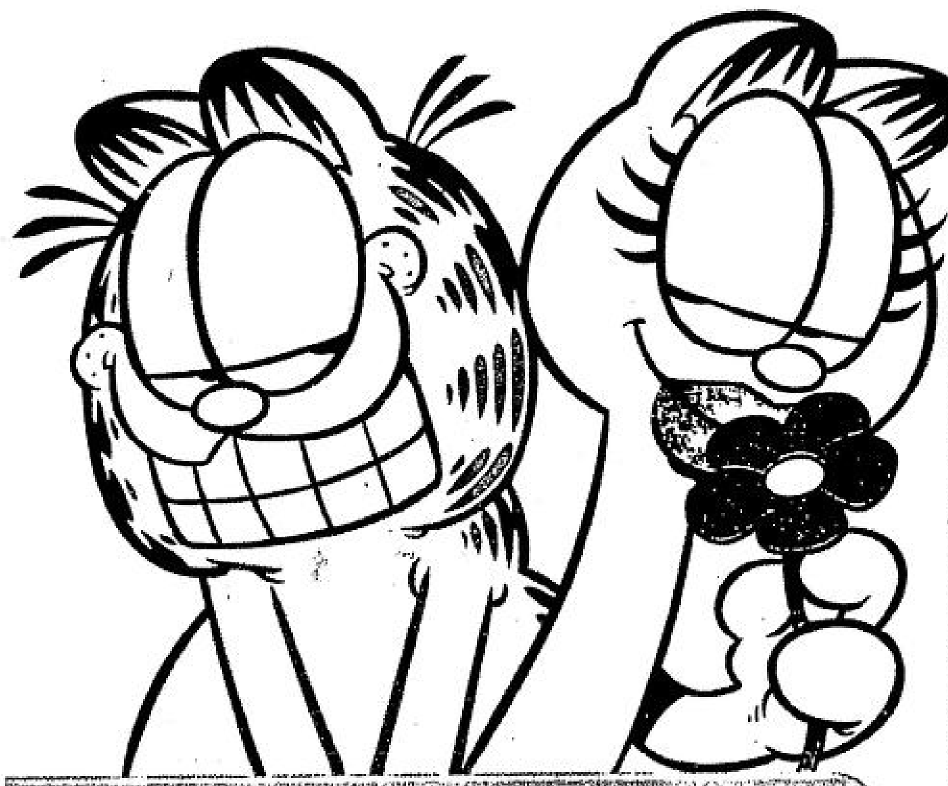


STORY ON PAGE M1

Filipino Designers' Group shows their wares

mushy



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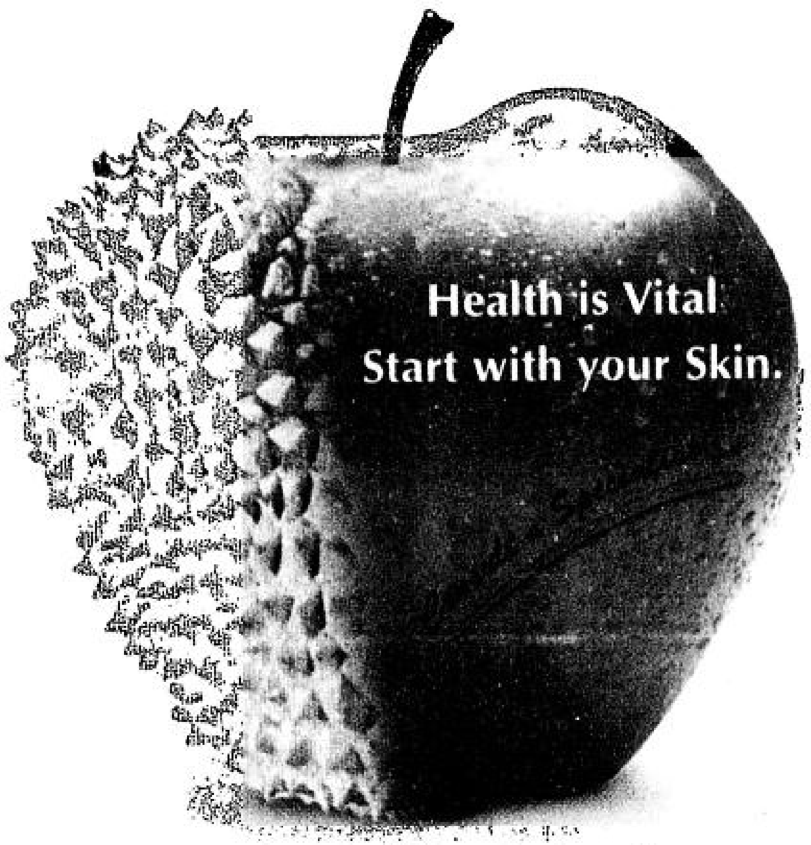

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See leaflets for details DTI-NCR Permit #A2-050, Series of 2003

Hearty Treats @ C-Square
Feb. 14 - 16 @ C- Square, Level 4
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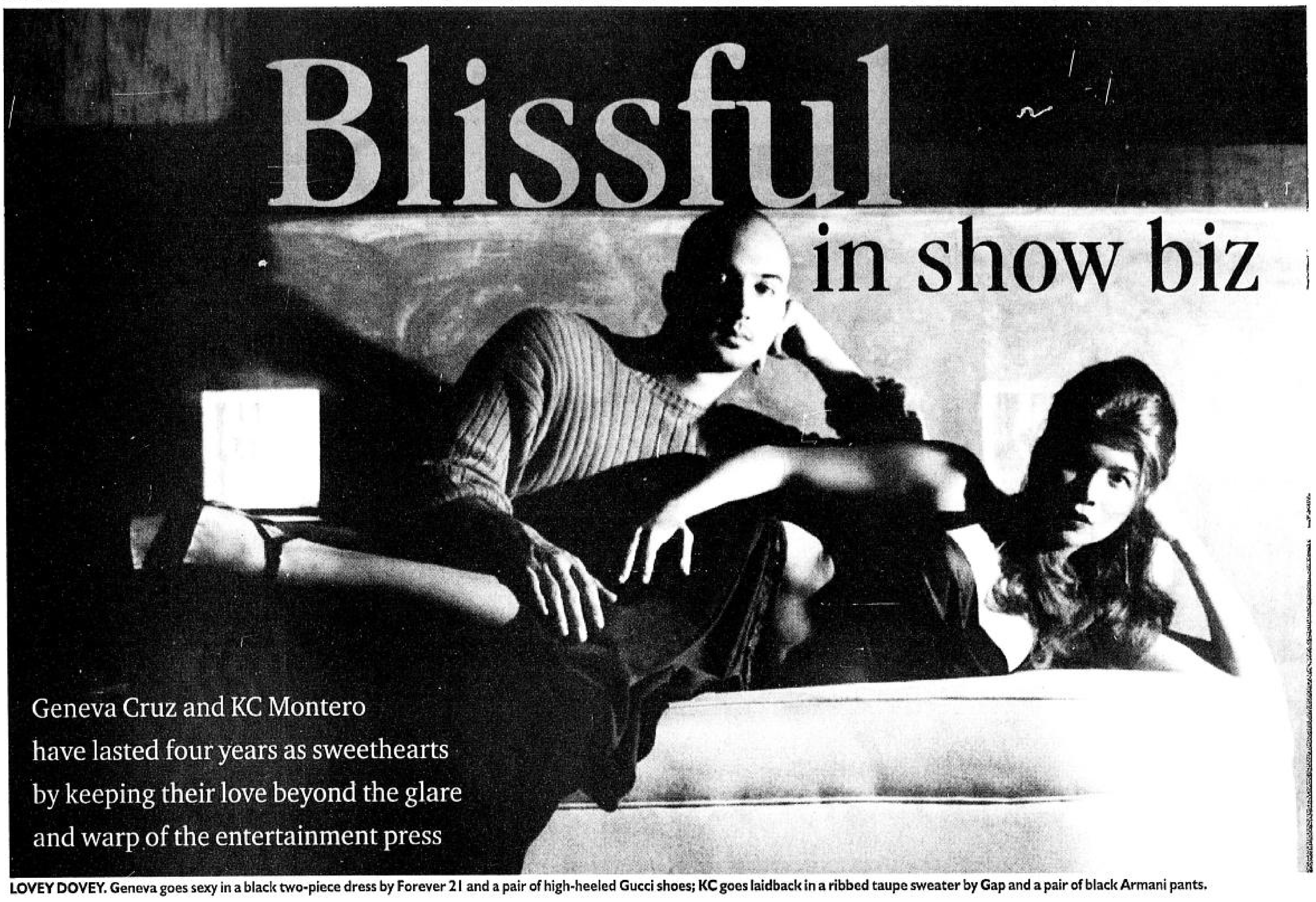


Blissful in show biz

Geneva Cruz and KC Montero have lasted four years as sweethearts by keeping their love beyond the glare and warp of the entertainment press

LOVEY DOVEY. Geneva goes sexy in a black two-piece dress by Forever 21 and a pair of high-heeled Gucci shoes; KC goes laidback in a ribbed taupe sweater by Gap and a pair of black Armani pants.

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Mike Alquinto

REAL-LIFE sweethearts Geneva Cruz and KC Montero are a rare breed in an industry where relationships are often as fleeting as today's show-biz headlines. The sexy singer-actress and the handsome MTV VJ are spending their fourth Valentine's Day together as a pair.

For the first time in four years, Geneva won't be doing a Valentine's show this year. KC, however, has a live gig tonight in Valenzuela. If his schedule will allow, he plans to take his ladylove to the BoyzIIMen's concert later before capping off the event with a candle-lit dinner.

"I must admit that I'm no good at this," says the Fil-Am celebrity. "I'd rather stay home and watch the TV like my dad. But Valentine's Day is a big thing for Geneva. She's so special to me that she deserves nothing less than the best."

Valentine's in Seattle

Geneva, however, tries to brush aside her fondness for the occasion. Like KC, she has a hard time recalling their most memorable Valentine's Day together. They spent the day together last year in Seattle, where Geneva sang during the wedding anniversary of KC's parents.

"Everyday should be Valentine's Day," says Geneva. "And don't ask me what our plans are. That's up to KC to decide. I have no idea where he plans to take me."

They both agree on one thing, though: for a show-biz relationship to last, the couple must know their priorities early on. They shouldn't allow the trappings of show biz to run their lives beyond the cameras. It also pays to stay low-key and to resist the temptation to talk about or capitalize on the relationship at every opportunity.

"Not once did we allow show biz to run our lives," says Geneva, who began her singing career at the tender age of 12. "We have been able to avoid such problems as envy and jealousy from destroying our relationship."

Remember, Geneva, 26, has been there before. Her high-profile romance with fellow singer Paco Arespacochaga, which eventually led to an early marriage, ended on a sour note. Their short-lived union produced a son, Heaven Enrico Luis, now 6.

Geneva, whose marriage with Paco has been annulled, is only too happy that Heaven has found a father figure in KC. The boy is spending his formative years with KC, not Paco, who has migrated to the United States. When not in the mall, the two are often seen together playing baseball or going through Heaven's homework.

"He's a nice guy with a big heart," says Geneva of KC. "In fact, he's even more patient than I am when it comes to helping Heaven with his homework. He's always been there for me and my son. I'm so thankful for having KC as my boyfriend."

Responsible man

KC, 25, is proving himself to be a responsible young man as well. Together with four friends, he recently put up Industry Lounge, a cozy bar featuring live entertainment on Filmore St, Makati (behind Cash & Carry Supermarket). The place opened less than a month ago.

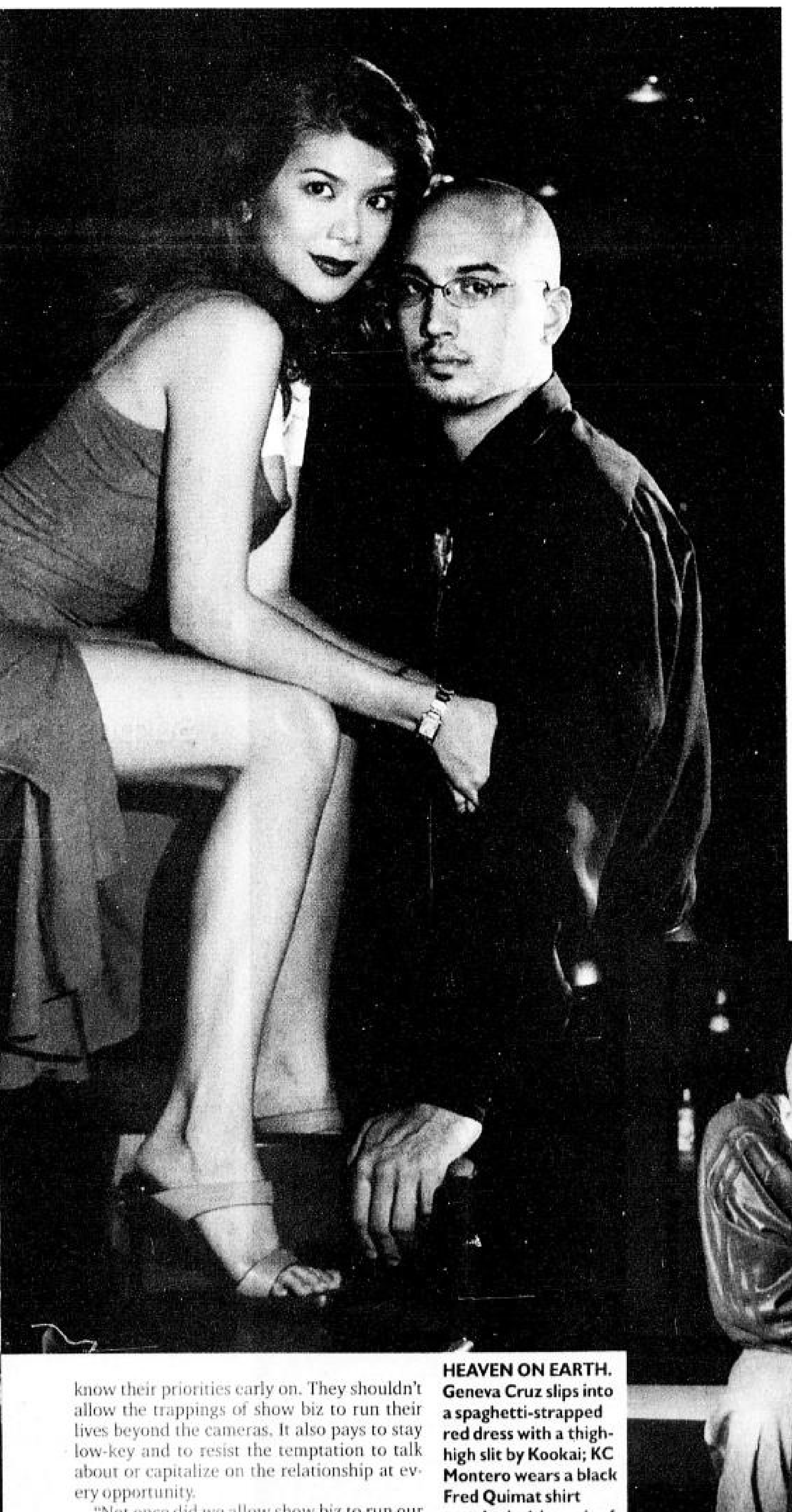
"I don't intend to stay in show biz for the rest of my life," says KC, an accidental celebrity who merely accompanied older brother Troy almost five years ago to the Philippines. "I plan to make enough money, settle down and do whatever I like without worrying about the consequences."

But plunging into a relationship with a separated woman is the least of KC's worries. For his part, he admires Geneva for the passion she puts into everything she does, whether it concerns her career or her son.

"Geneva is a fiery, sensitive woman," says KC. "At the same time, she's a very caring person who tries to put everybody before her."

KC relishes the way Geneva sometimes fusses over him, to the point of cooking his meals. Lest you get the wrong ideas, KC lives alone, while Geneva lives with her mother. The two, however, spend most of their spare

BLISSFUL/ D3



HEAVEN ON EARTH. Geneva Cruz slips into a spaghetti-strapped red dress with a thigh-high slit by Kookai; KC Montero wears a black Fred Quimat shirt matched with a pair of black Armani pants.

HOT, HOT, HOT. Geneva shows off her washboard abs in a frilly ensemble from Linea Italia; KC goes semi-formal in a maroon Fred Quimat shirt and black Armani pants.

GETTING PHYSICAL. KC feels at home in an Adidas sweatshirt and a pair of Boulevard jeans; Geneva matches his outfit with a custom-made sweatshirt cum midriff and a pair of Nafnaf jeans.

HAIR AND MAKEUP: FRANCIS QUINONES, PIANDRE, LIBIS. TEL. 437-7028/7021
STYLING: JESSIE OROZCO
LOCATION:
INDUSTRY LOUNGE, FILMORE STREET, MAKATI

Blissful . . .

From page D2

time together.

"She has a way of sensing my needs," says KC. "I'm capable of taking care of myself. But it's good to know that somebody out there genuinely cares for me, who makes sure that I'm happy and well fed. I've gained weight ever since we've been together."

The pair held on to each other even when nasty talk threatened to destroy their relationship and their careers. Geneva, a mixture of pain and anger written on her face, refuses to dignify the rumor.

"I'd rather not talk about it anymore," she says. "It's not really fit for Valentine reading."

But the two were so devastated by the baseless report that they had to break their self-imposed silence and do the rounds of show biz-talk shows to deny it. In deference to Geneva's wish, we won't go into details anymore. If anything, however, the particular episode only showed how far they would go to defend their relationship and set the record straight.

"I don't easily get upset by rumors," says KC, "but that one really drove me a bit crazy. Our private lives have become pretty much known by now. The problem is everybody knows or assumes to know too much."

No sibling rivalry

Rumor mongers are at it again, and this time they've targeted the Montero brothers, including Troy's girlfriend, Cher Calvin.

"They say Troy and Cher got married in Las Vegas, and I wasn't invited," says KC. "Both accounts aren't true. My brother and I are very much in good terms."

And what about their own wedding? Is marriage on the horizon for KC and Geneva?

"It's in everyone's horizon," says KC with a smile. "I feel I'm not ready for it yet. Everything has to be perfect before we settle down."

The two are very much into their own careers at present. Geneva, for instance, dreams of conquering the world stage someday. It won't be easy, she admits, but she's raring to give it a try.

"I'll do it while I'm still young and full of dreams," she says.

As for Geneva's private life, she can't ask for anything more. Not that it's necessary in a relationship, but even KC's parents have grown fond of her. As for her detractors who think KC is too good for her, this she has to say: "I don't care about what other people say as long as I'm happy. Every single mom deserves a second wind." KC and Geneva have, indeed, found heaven in each other's arms.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

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Disney Winnie the Pooh Electric Airpot P1899.75 ₱1449 75
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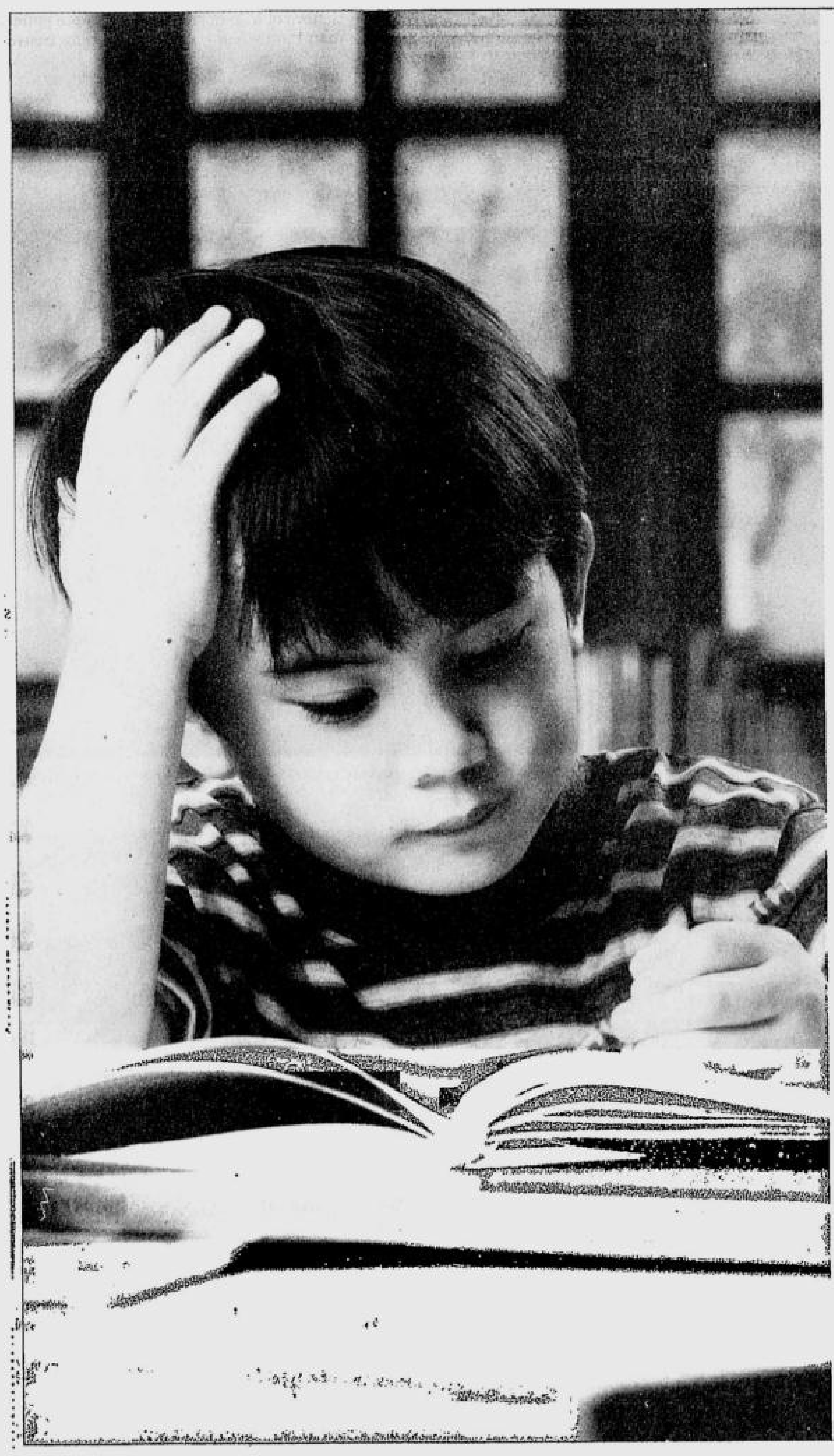
See mechanics poster for details
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0412 Series of 2003



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Celebrating seven decades of friendship

Unilever marks anniversary with glittering show featuring star endorsers

THE DAZZLING women of Unilever (from left): Donita Rose, January Isaac, Maricel Laxa, Elizabeth Ramsey, Kuh Ledesma, Kris Aquino, Pops Fernandez, Charlene Gonzales, Margie Moran, Lucy Torres, Pia Guanio, Jolina Magdangal and Heart Evangelista

By Donnie C. Ramirez
Contributor

WITH the theme, "Kaibigan Habang Buhay," Unilever Philippines celebrated 75 years of providing for the everyday needs of more than 75 million Filipinos in a grand anniversary hoopla at the World Trade Center.

The milestone was attended by members of the Unilever family, business partners and top celebrities who, at one time or another, endorsed the company's wide range of consumer products.

Unilever Philippines was established in 1927. Then known as the Philippine Refining Company (PRC), it started as an oil mill.

Today, Unilever is the country's leading manufacturer of laundry detergents and soaps, shampoos and hair conditioners, toothpastes, deodorants, skin-care products and bath soaps. Its annual sales exceed P12 billion and its total workforce in the country is over 1,000.

Unilever also operates in more than 90 countries, employing about 300,000 people. In 2000, it generated over US $52 billion in sales, making it one of the top industrial companies in the world. Fortune Global 500 ranked it 54 in terms of turnover.

Spectacular

Co-organized with ABS-CBN, the anniversary show showed through spectacular production numbers, tableaus and skits featuring the country's best talents, how Unilever, through its various products, has become a part of every Filipino household. The show was anchored by Martin Nievera and former Lux Girls Donita Rose, Kris Aquino and Pops Fernandez.

In pre-taped video clips, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and Sen. Loren Legarda (a former Close-Up Girl herself) paid tribute to Unilever and its involvement in environmental causes. GMA also cited the company's contribution to nation-building.

To underscore its commitment to the ecology, Unilever announced it was bankrolling the reforestation of 75 hectares in the La Mesa Dam watershed area.

There was an overflow of glamour in a parade of big-name stars who had appeared in Unilever's memorable commercials through the years.

They included Kuh Ledesma (Lux), Charlene Gonzales (Creamsilk), January Isaac (Surf), Maricel Laxa (Vaseline Shampoo), Margie Moran-Floirendo (Lux), Elizabeth Ramsey (Superwheel), Pia Guanio (Rexona), Jolina Magdangal (Sunsilk), Heart Evangelista (Rexona/Vaseline Shampoo) and Lucy Torres (Lux), who was escorted on stage by husband Richard Gomez. Sharon Cuneta, who endorses a number of Unilever products, was sorely missed.

The production numbers were pure entertainment. The Apo Hiking Society set the right tone with its opening number, "Sitenta'y Singko Na!" Despite the years, Danny, Jim and Buboy didn't miss a beat.

The Power Boys, propelled to instant celebrity by the Rexona commercial, reenacted their towel routine in a comedy skit. April Boy Regino, Geneva Cruz, Rachel Alejandro, Luke Mijares, Calvin Millado, Anna Fegi, Dessa and Gary Valenciano shone in their own segments.

But the high point of the show was the duet of Filipino Broadway stars Paolo Montalban and Joanna Ampil. The performance was sheer musical magic!

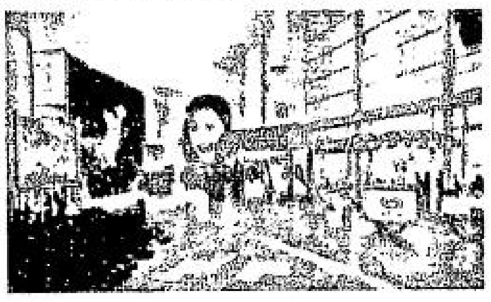
Nostalgia ran thick in clips of vintage Superwheel, Lux and Close-Up commercials flashed on giant screens, and displayed in giant exhibit modules at the lobby representing each of the seven decades of Unilever in the Philippines.

The impressive display featured memorabilia and blown-up mock-ups of old Lux print ad layouts of Susan Roces, Amalia Fuentes, Daisy Romualdez and Maggie dela Riva.

Unilever Philippines president Howard Belton (not Hubert Belton as written in an earlier piece) capped the celebration with a fitting toast for an even brighter future for Unilever and the Filipino people that it proudly serves. Truly, *magkaibigan habang buhay*!

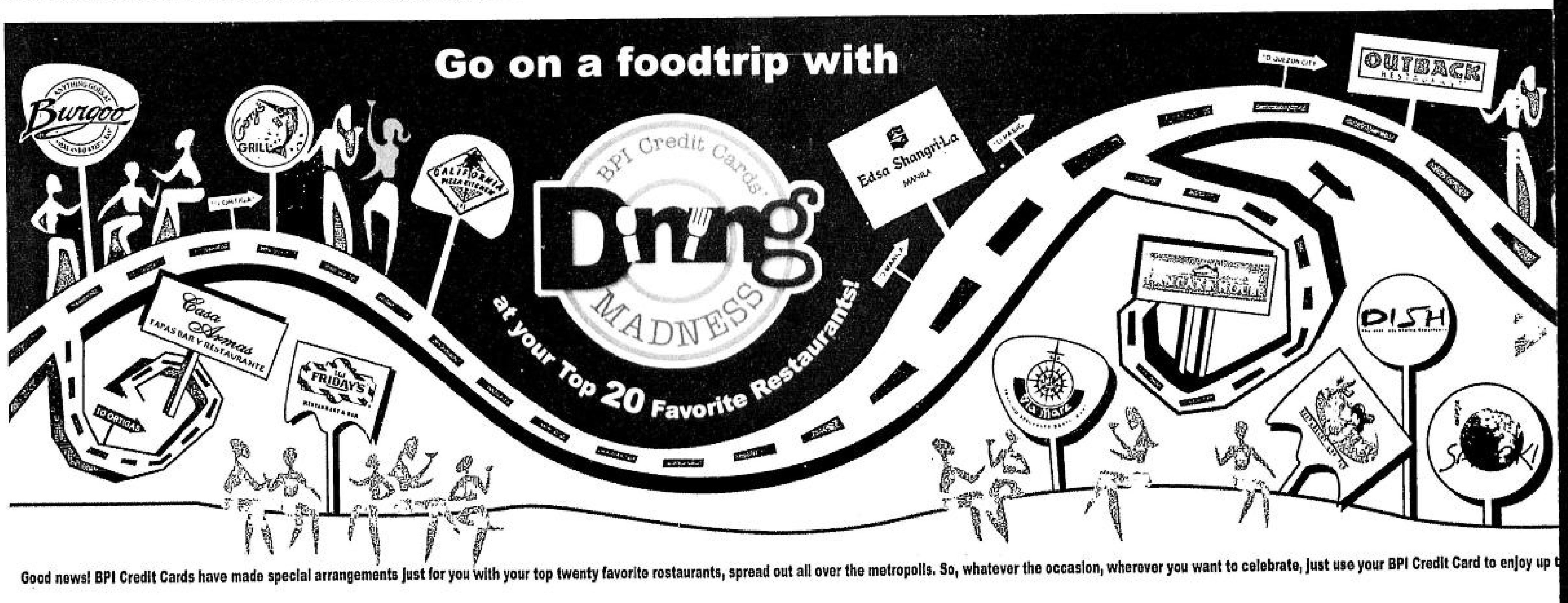
UNILEVER Philippines top guns Efren Samonte, Frox Espere, Mars Aaron, Howard Belton, Eileen Araneta, Hector Vigo and Pong Ejercito hold hands for the corporate song "Magkakaibigan."

THE BREEZE and Superwheel display module at the World Trade Center lobby


THE GIANT mock-ups of vintage Unilever ads and memorabilia at the WTC lobby

FORMIDABLE anchors Martin Nievera, Pops Fernandez, Kris Aquino and Donita Rose

"PASIG, River of Life" author Ronnie Alejandro, Marixi Rufino-Prieto, Howard and Cristina Belton, and Sandy Prieto-Romualdez



Good news! BPI Credit Cards have made special arrangements just for you with your top twenty favorite restaurants, spread out all over the metropolis. So, whatever the occasion, wherever you want to celebrate, just use your BPI Credit Card to enjoy up

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WHAT does the discriminating traveler look for in a hotel? Location, convenience, amenities and affordability—these are the things that matter. And offering the discriminating traveler the best is something that The Pearl Manila Hotel takes to heart.

Located in the heart of Manila's business district and just minutes away from major historical and political landmarks like the Rizal Monument, the Walled City of Intramuros, the Metropolitan Museum and the Cultural Center of the Philippines, The Pearl Manila Hotel's 132 well-appointed guest rooms and suites have all the latest amenities such as cable TV, individual controlled split-type air conditioner, electronic door lock system, in-room safe, telephone with NDD and IDD facilities and refrigerators with mini-bar.

For those who are traveling to Manila on business, The Pearl Manila makes it easy for you to do your job with its fully equipped Business Center and in-room data port with Internet access. You can even have a fax machine hooked up in your room upon request.

The hotel also has a full range of function rooms that can host seminars, conferences, product launches and other such events.

You can hie off to the nearby Strand Shopping Arcade, or while away your time in The Pearl Manila fitness center, outdoor swimming pool or in your room enjoying the hotel's massage services. If golf's your thing, the hotel staff can even arrange reservations to the nearest golf course.

If your idea of relaxing involves a good meal, The Pearl Manila Hotel offers several options, from its Seven Seas Cafe (open daily from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.) offering a wide variety of Asian and international buffet and a la carte meals, to its Oyster Bar (open daily from 10 a.m. to 12 midnight), which also features a piano bar for some soothing and relaxing music.

Another thing that will attract guests to The Pearl Manila Hotel is that rates are extremely reasonable. A Superior Room goes for only $85 a night, while for local residents, the same room goes for P1,900 a night. A luxurious two-bedroom suite is only $175 or P5,200 a night.

The Pearl Manila Hotel's four penthouse suites: the Splendour, the Oriental, the Palazzo and Enchantment range from $224 to $384 per night, inclusive of overnight accommodation (single or double occupancy), welcome drinks, complimentary breakfast, free use of the pool and gym, free daily newspaper and a free supply of mineral water, replenished daily.

The Pearl Manila Hotel is located at General Luna St. corner Taft and United Nations Avenue., Call 400-0088.

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THE GIRLS OF
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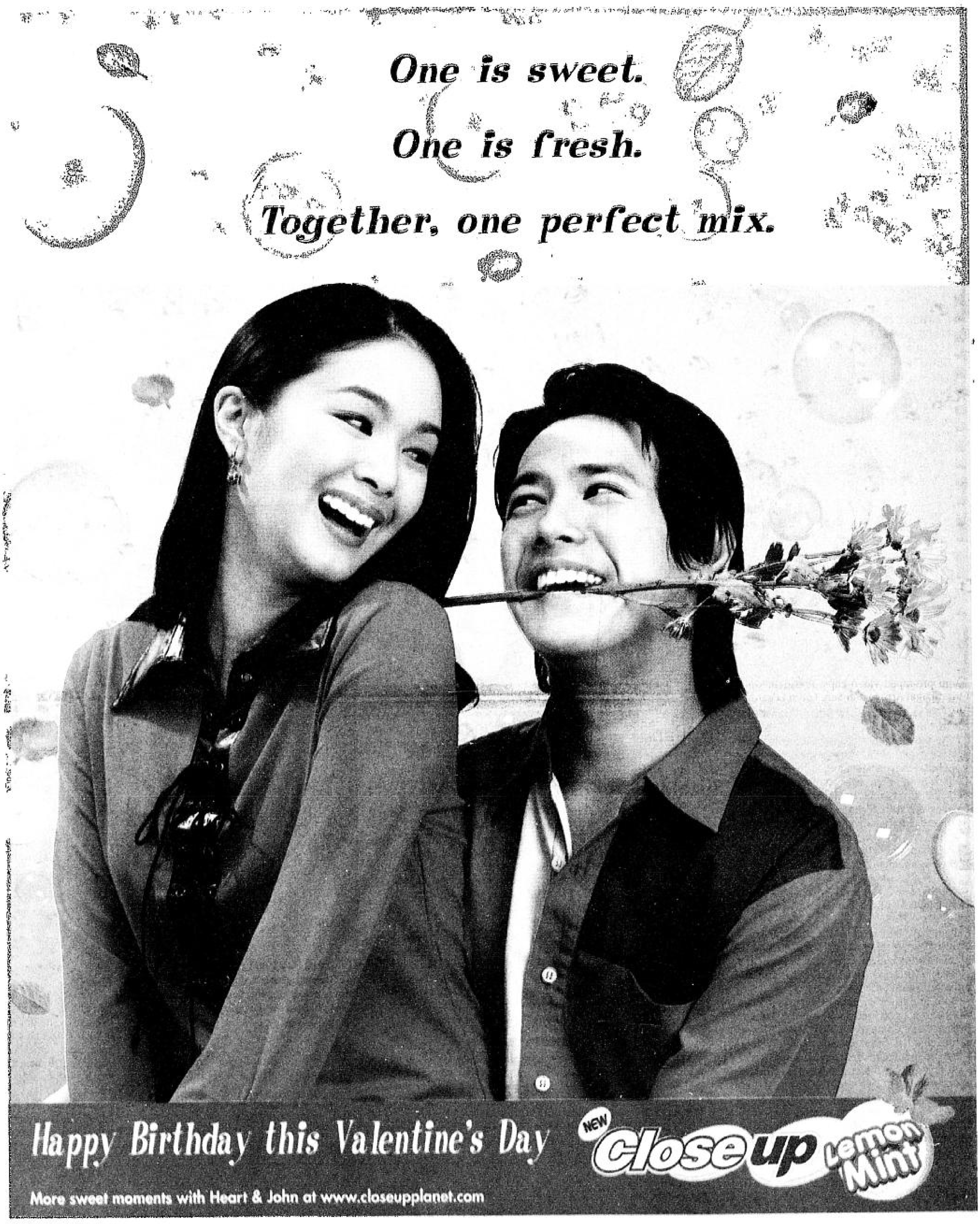
Stunning women on mag's third year issue

FHM Philippines celebrates its third anniversary with Girls of FHM, a hot collection of the most drool-worthy women to have ever graced its glossy pages.

Girls of FHM will be an annual 160-page compilation of 56 of its readers' most requested FHM local and foreign celebrity babes starting from the first issue of FHM Philippines in March 2000 to December 2001 Dina Bonnevie issue.

Copies of Girls of FHM are now available in magazine shops and bookstore at P295 per copy.

FHM Philippines is published by Summit Media.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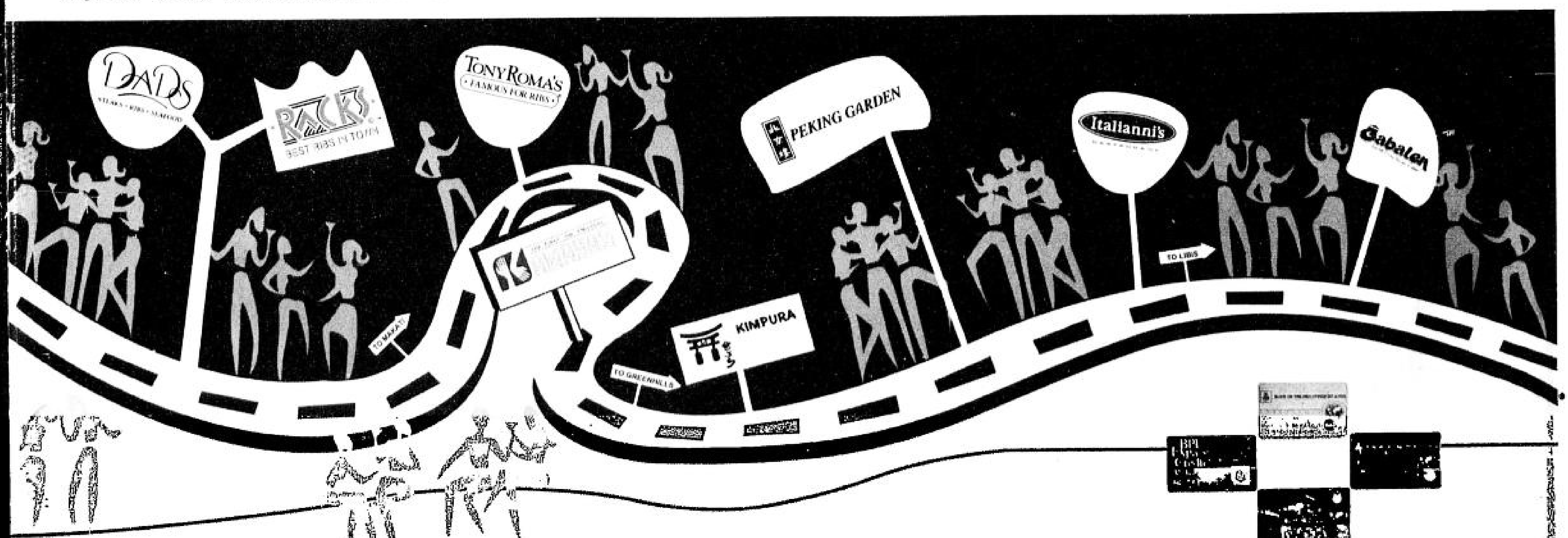

o 20% discount plus some freebies, like appetizers, desserts and drinks at selected restaurants! You have to agree that it's pure Dining Madness! Go for it, now!
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MANILA'S MOST ELIGIBLE MEETS MANILA'S MOST BEAUTIFUL. Bianca Araneta and Juan Elizalde, happy together before a Le Corbusier purchased by his family some 30 years ago.

When the clock strikes love

Text by Tim Yap
Photos by Willy Saw

> To Juan Elizalde and Bianca Araneta, finding each other is a matter of timing

"WE'VE known each other for a long time," said Juan Elizalde, recalling the time he was all of 22 years and he saw Bianca Araneta for the first time.

"We would bump into each other in clubs and we would always have a great conversation. But he never called me," said Bianca.

Both were then still attached—to other persons. But as fate would have it, last December, almost a decade since they first met, Juan and Bianca ran into each other again. Both by then were unattached.

"He made me laugh. He made me smile," Bianca recalled of their first moments together.

"She was really sweet. We were constantly calling and texting each other," Juan recalled fondly.

Bianca Araneta is one of the country's most beautiful women. Juan Elizalde is among Manila's most eligible bachelors. Both are blessed with good looks, great careers, famous lineage and fine taste.

Both are at the prime of their lives. Juan works for his dad Fred at the family's Manila Broadcasting Company (MBC), while Bianca is finishing her college thesis while juggling video production, modeling and veejay jobs.

At first glance, theirs seems a match made in social heaven. But if you're thinking that theirs was "arranged," think again.

Juan and Bianca started sending each other text messages when Juan went to the United States for a wedding. Upon returning home to Manila with his mother, art patroness and iconic society figure Josine Elizalde, he lost no time in meeting Bianca.

"I didn't want to waste any time," he said. "We met up for brunch, had drinks and then proceeded to have dinner."

Talk about spontaneity. From then on, they became inseparable. They were seen in several functions, bar-hopping, going out with friends, just enjoying each other's company.

And it shows. At the shoot in the Elizalde home in South Forbes, Juan and Bianca displayed so much ease in front of the camera.

Bianca, of course, the seasoned model, knew her angles, and so did Juan unconsciously, despite being more of a businessman.

"They look so good together," observed Josine, who was present all throughout the shoot, helping us with the set-up and even suggesting which tapestries to use as backdrop for Juan and Bianca's portrait.

Romance in the air

As Juan and Bianca posed for Willy Saw's camera, there was an overflow of romance in the air.

It was in their eyes, in the way they looked at each other. Juan looked relaxed and refreshed while Bianca even looked younger and happier than her last social appearance.

LIVE AND LOVE WITH LAUGHTER. Juan and Bianca believe in sharing common interests and laughing together. Here, Manila's latest "it" couple pose before a Fred Elizalde painting.

"We get along really well together," Juan said when asked about what made them happy.

"And she is a very nice girl," joined in the timeless beauty Josine.

With a red, black and white tapestry of Le Corbusier as backdrop, Bianca and Juan smiled, teased and whispered sweet nothings to each other, and laughed together.

"We don't go out so much anymore," said Bianca, a self-confessed beach, animal and nature lover. "These days we're in Boracay almost every weekend."

"I'm at work all day, but after that, we spend a lot of time together, plus I've been busy putting up a café in Boracay," Juan said.

Later, the two had another photo taken with a Fred Elizalde mural as backdrop. Here, Juan stole a kiss from Bianca while the photographer clicked away.

"She's fun to be with," said Juan. "He's mentally stimulating and very affectionate," said Bianca.

So in what aspects do they not get along well?

"Practically nothing," said Juan. "We like the same food, music, taste in things, clothes, vacation spots, architecture, even gadgets! She's very much into computers, and I like gadgetry."

They call each other "sweetie" and constantly indulge in baby talk, he added.

Then it was Bianca's turn. "He used to hate 'Sex and the City.' But I love 'Sex and the City.' Eventually, he got into it. Now, we have our regular 'Sex and the City' nights. He would even beg, 'One more episode, one more episode...'" Bianca said with a laugh. "And we would just lounge around and enjoy being with each other."

"It's good that it happened now," Bianca added, with a glow in her eyes. "Had it happened before, maybe it wouldn't have worked out—I guess it's just the timing."

Strapped and sexy

FAS[illegible] sexy [illegible] in so[illegible] three-inch heels

PAMPER your feet and strut with confidence in these sexy, ankle-strapped red suede pumps accentuated with rhinestones that will dress up your outfit for that special date. Or go trendy with sleek and sexy sling back pointed boots in soft nappa leather with 3-inch heels designed by Gabrio Franco. Shoe Studio is located at the 2/L of Glorietta 4, Ayala Center.

SEXY ankle-strapped red suede pumps accentuated with rhinestones

Valentine events for the family

MAKE it a date with the whole family as Storyland, an indoor theme park, celebrates Valentine with fun events for everyone.

Meet and greet Storyland's lovable characters—Ellie the Elephant, Lionel, Say March, Eggbert, as well as its playful clowns, on Feb. 15-22 at Storyland SM Southmall and on Feb. 16 and 23 at Storyland SM City Fairview. These sessions will be held from 11 a.m. to 12 nn.

It's truly a family affair at the park: Fortune Telling with Madame Adi; Treasure Hunt for heart-shaped treasures and goodies; and Face Painting at Storyland Southmall on Feb. 15-22, and Storyland Fairview on Feb. 16-23, 2-5 p.m.

Listen to the music of love with the rest of the family with the park's Valentine Concerts. Taking center stage are the Blue Ground and Waterfront Bands at Storyland Southmall on Feb. 15. Also not to be missed is the Storyland musical show on Feb. 22 at 4-5 p.m.

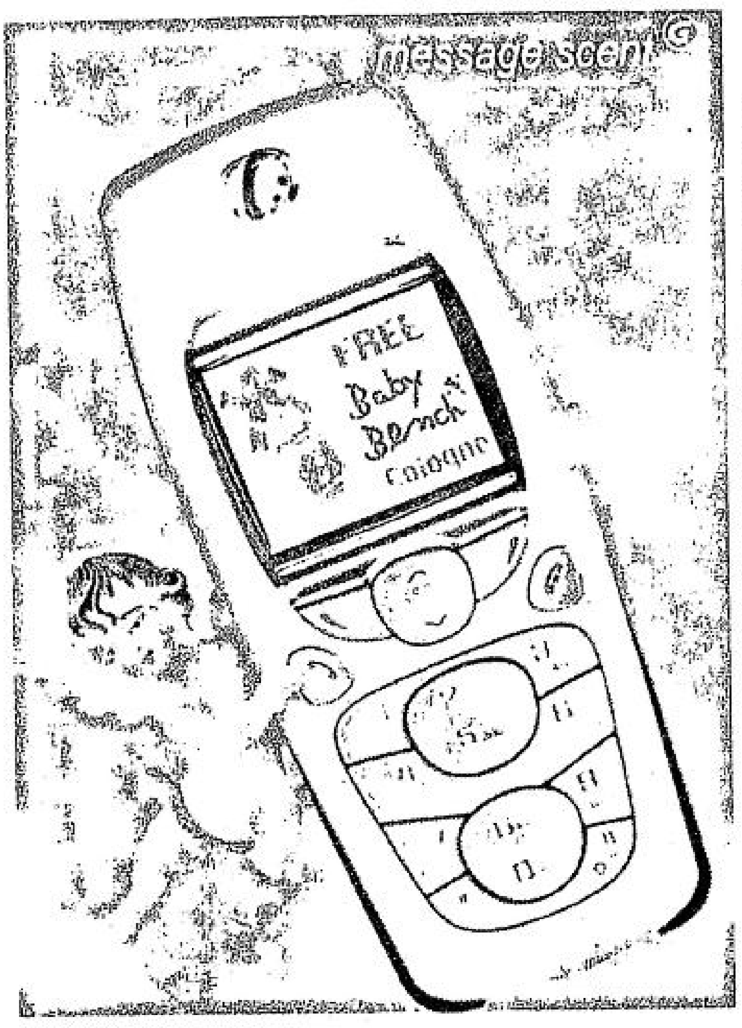
Park guests can also showcase their talents at Storyland through Tom's World's Duo Dance Maniac and Videoke Singing competitions. In the former, pairs can show their stuff inspired by the arcade dance game and have a chance to win prizes in the grand finals today at 4 p.m. at Storyland Southmall.

Westwood
JUNIPER DEW

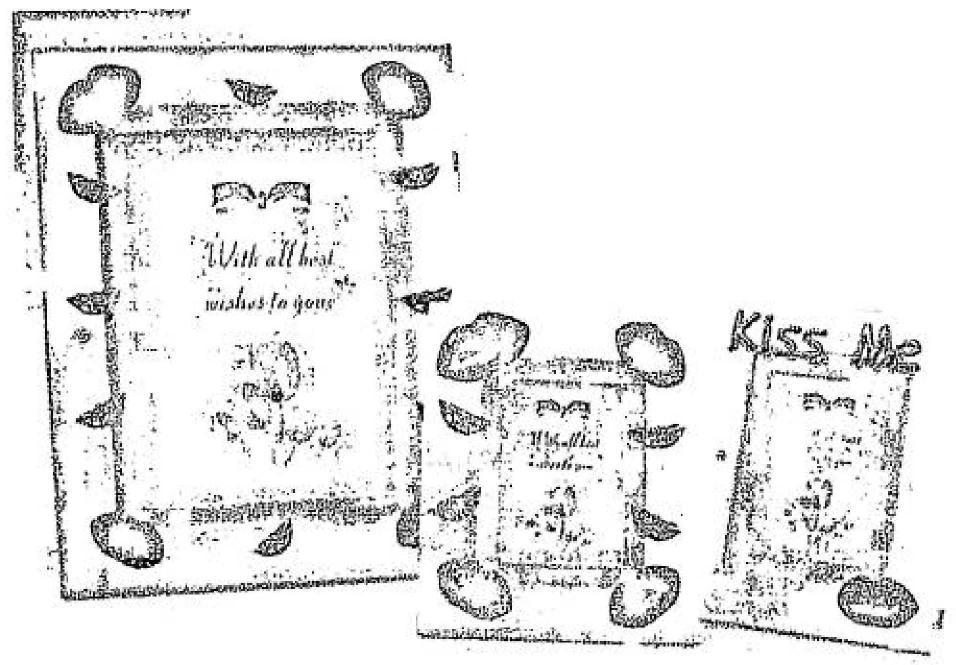
GIFT your loved ones this Valentine with soothing and beautifying aromatherapy products from CM Star Direct Sales. CM Star Westwood Products have special scents.
Juniper dew (cologne, moisturizing lotion and soap) is a fresh bouquet of morning mist from juniper, blended with a revitalizing fragrance from an apple orchard. Its moisturizer contains natural Vitamin E extract.
Oxy-green (cologne and soap) is a blend of Green Tea leaves and citrus fruits. It contains green tea extracts known to be an anti-oxidant with toning and astringent cleansing qualities. Call 913-9066 or 912-5667, or visit CM Star office at 86 9th Avenue, Cubao, QC.

LUSH
DREAMWASH

LUSH invents Dream Wash (P525), a soothing, healing cream body wash that helps reduce redness, calms and softens the skin as it gently cleanses.
Part of Lush's skin conditioners range, Dream Wash is a combination of its Fresh Farmacy soap formulated for problem skin and its Dream Cream rich body moisturizer. Made of calming calamine powder, soothing aloe vera gel and glycerine, the product helps the skin retain moisture. A blend of essential oils of rose absolute, chamomile, tea tree and lavender helps regenerate skin.
Lush is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc. Lush boutiques are located at Glorietta 4, Power Plant Mall, Shangri-La Mall and Greenbelt 3.



MESSAGE SCENT
Globe Telecom Business Center suggests two ways to say "I love you" this Valentine via a phone and cologne spree. Just go to any Globe Business Center until Feb. 28 and get a new postpaid subscription or purchase a Globe or Touch Mobile prepaid SIM pack or phone kit. Each transaction gets you a coupon, which entitles you to a free 50 ml bottle of Baby Bench cologne. You can redeem the cologne at any Bench store nationwide until April 29. This promo is exclusive at all Globe Telecom Business Centers.



SEALED WITH KISSES
Smother your loved one with photo frames filled with kisses and "kiss me" notes this Valentine. Available at the Novelty Shop, G/F of Crossings Department Store in Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City, and at other branches located in Quezon Avenue, Quezon City and Rizal Avenue, Manila.

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*promo is valid at all M+FG outlets nationwide except Duty Free Philippines Fiesta Mall

Promo period is from November 29, 2002 to February 28, 2003. Deadline of submission of entries is mall-closing hour of February 28, 2003.

Draw date of the raffle promo is on March 14, 2003 at 6pm at JVS Asia, Incorporated head office located at Suite 309, Ortigas Building, Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City. Winners will be notified through registered mail and will have 60 days upon receipt of notification to claim their prize. Otherwise, it shall be forfeited in favor of JVS Asia Incorporated with prior DTI approval.

Prize must be claimed at JVS Asia, Inc. Head Office located at Suite 309, Ortigas Building, Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City.

To claim their prize, winner must present 2 valid IDs (driver's license, company ID, postal ID, etc.) with their complete name, signature and photo affixed on it. They would also have to bring the winning raffle stub and registered notice from JVS Asia, Inc.

Prizes are transferable but cannot be converted to cash. Trip prize is valid for [illegible] months from date of issue. All travel documents shall be for the account of the winner. Corresponding travel tax [illegible]

[illegible] JVS Asia, [illegible]

All employees of JVS Asia, Inc., [illegible], Metamorphosis, Inc. and JVS Worldwide, Inc. and their relatives up to [illegible] degree of consanguinity or affinity as well as employees of affiliated sponsors are disqualified to join the promo.

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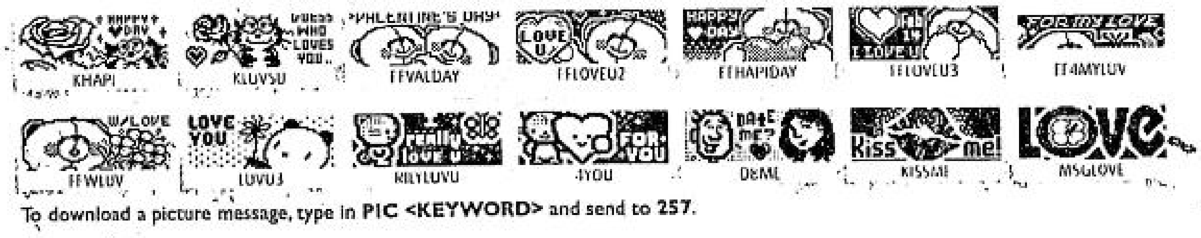
PICTURE MESSAGES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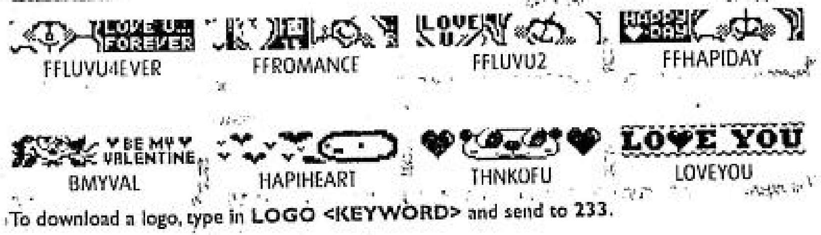
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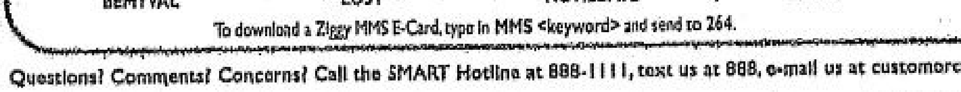
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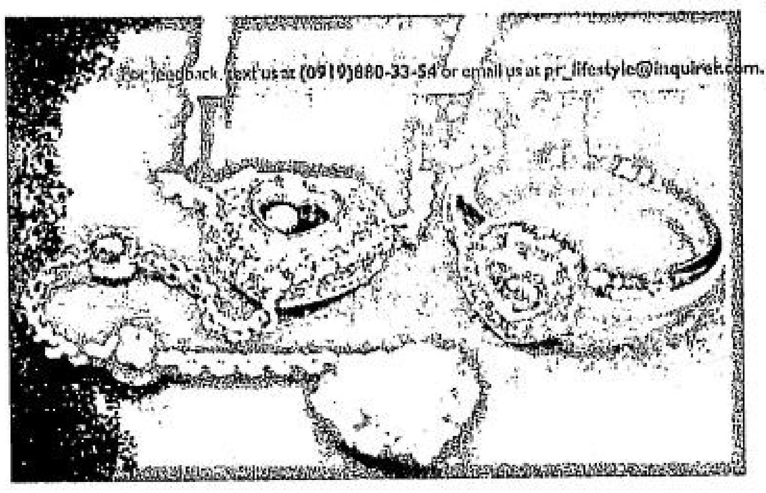


Gifts to last longer than *Valentine's* Day

Text by Allison W. Lopez
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

FOR A VALENTINE gift that will last much longer than the day itself, the makers of Happy Diamonds, luxury watch and jewelry firm Chopard, offer you more and newer options.

A precious hearts' day collection, a first from Chopard, was launched Tuesday at Rustan's Makati.

"We hear that Valentine is a big thing in the Philippines, so we brought the collection here," says Hardy Gattiker, managing director of Chopard in Asia.

From dainty to elaborate, Chopard's Valentine necklaces, bracelets, earrings and other pieces are surely worth a woman's smile on this special day.

"Even in these hard times, nothing can replace the happiness brought by our collection," Gattiker says.

Hearts of all colors and sizes dominate the impressive collection. Eighteen-karat white gold lariat necklaces with hearts in pastel pink sapphires are perfect for young ladies, while necklaces with heart-shaped pendants set in black diamonds, blue topaz, pink sapphires and other gems look elegant on the more mature set.

A relaunching

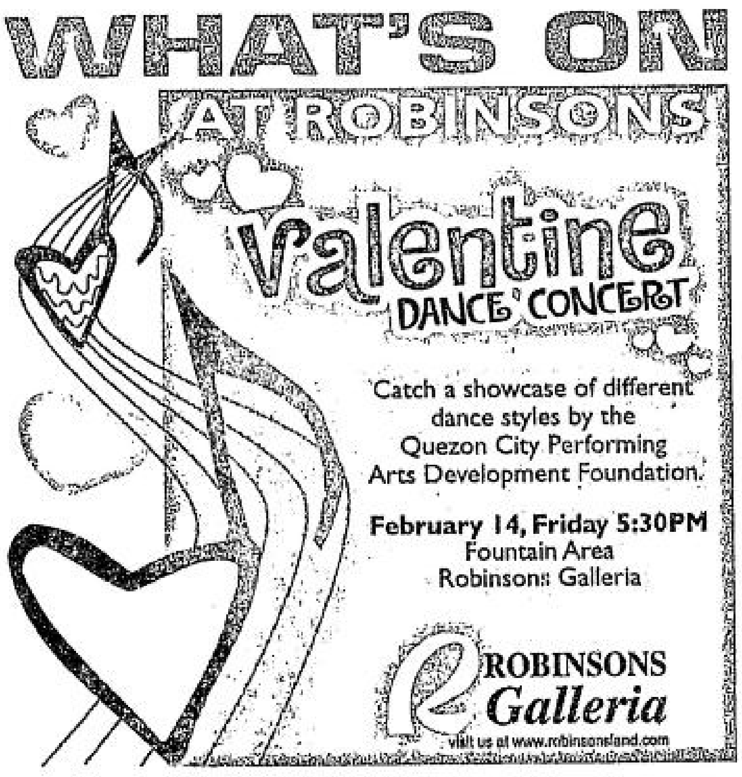
Chopard's famous Happy Diamonds collection was also relaunched yesterday, featuring such fresh variations as Happy Oval, Happy Beach and Happy Fish. The Swiss company's trademark Happy Diamonds—small diamonds float inside a watch face—was designed in 1976. The concept, an enormous technical challenge, was such a success that it won the 1976 "Die Goldene Rose of Baden-Baden," one of the most prestigious watch design awards in the world.

"The Happy Beach and the Happy Fish are probably our trendiest," says Gattiker. Playful and charming, the Happy Beach and Happy Fish watches have a fish or two in diamonds or other gems and brightly hued straps.

The Happy Diamonds collection is ideal for marking milestones. "For anniversaries, let's say, you can request for only one diamond inside the watch for the first year. Then year after year, you can add more diamonds until you can no longer see the time," Gattiker

GIFTS/ E2

HARDY Gattiker, managing director of Chopard in Asia



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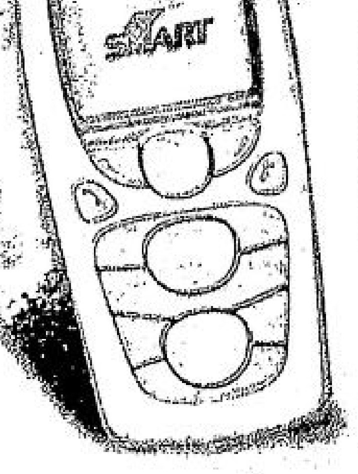

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Hearts of all colors and sizes dominate the impressive new Chopard collection

CHOPARD'S Happy Diamond watch for Valentine

HAPPY HEARTS. Trendy Happy Diamond watches in light pink, carnation and yellow straps

Gifts to last longer than *Valentine's Day*

FIVE small diamonds float freely in this elegant Happy Diamond necklace.

GIFTS/ E3

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40 cents won't make the oceans contract or the continents move. Heck, 40 days of prayers wouldn't change the distance between me and you. But for 40 cents, I can have you so near I can hear your voice in my ear (closing my eyes, it's as if you were beside me).

Give me your spare minutes like spare change jangling in your days, I'm a beggar for your love.

– From the journal of Shiloah

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Gifts to last

From page E2

heartily recommends.

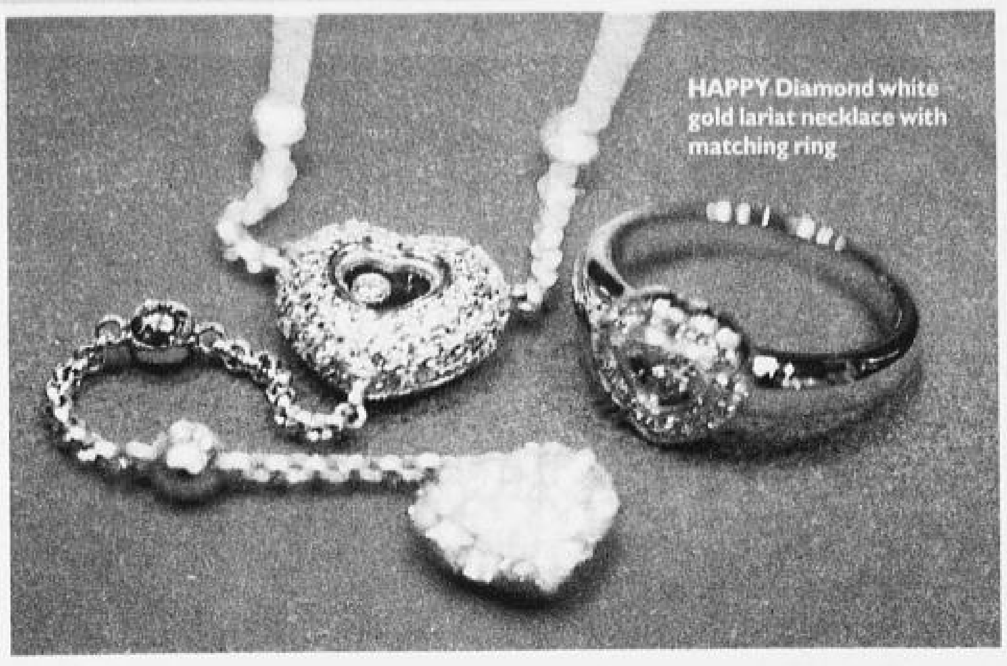
Chopard also unveiled the new Ice Cube collection watches, rings and bracelets adorned with diamonds in the shape of ice cubes. A standout in the collection is a watch studded with diamonds in cubes found all over the watch's face and strap.

Many Hollywood stars have been seen with Chopard jewelry since the company became a sponsor of the annual Cannes film festival in 1998. Sharon Stone, Salma Hayek, Patricia Arquette, Rebecca Romijn-Stamos and Chinese actress Gong Li have worn glittery Chopard pieces to the awards night of one of the best known French events.

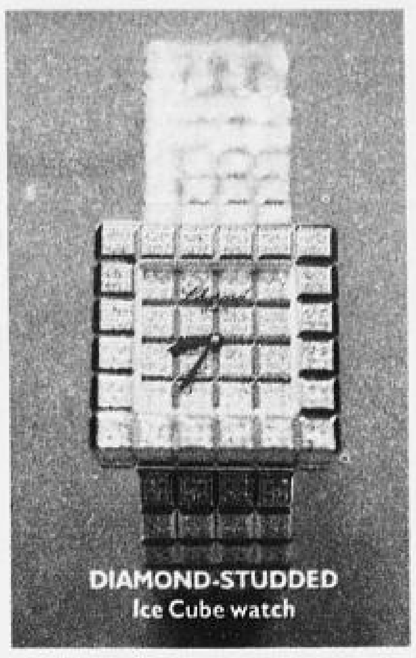
The Chopard brand also carries accessories like eyewear, perfumes, silk scarves and even sophisticated tableware.

Very few ways can be better than giving a Chopard to greet a loved one a "Happy Heart's Day."

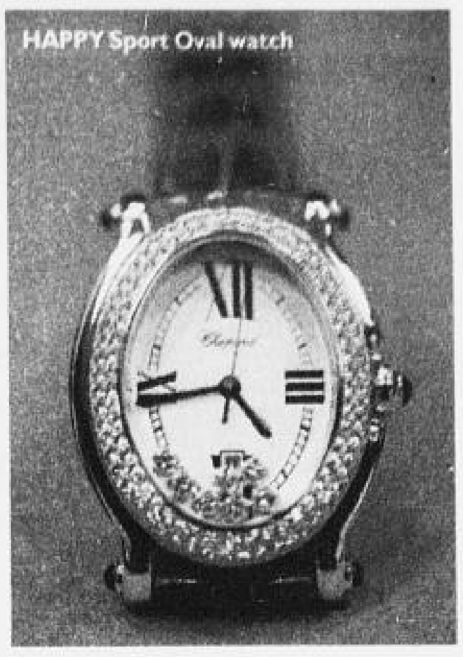
Chopard's collections are available at Rustan's Silver Vault, 3/F Rustan's Department Store, Ayala Center, Makati City.



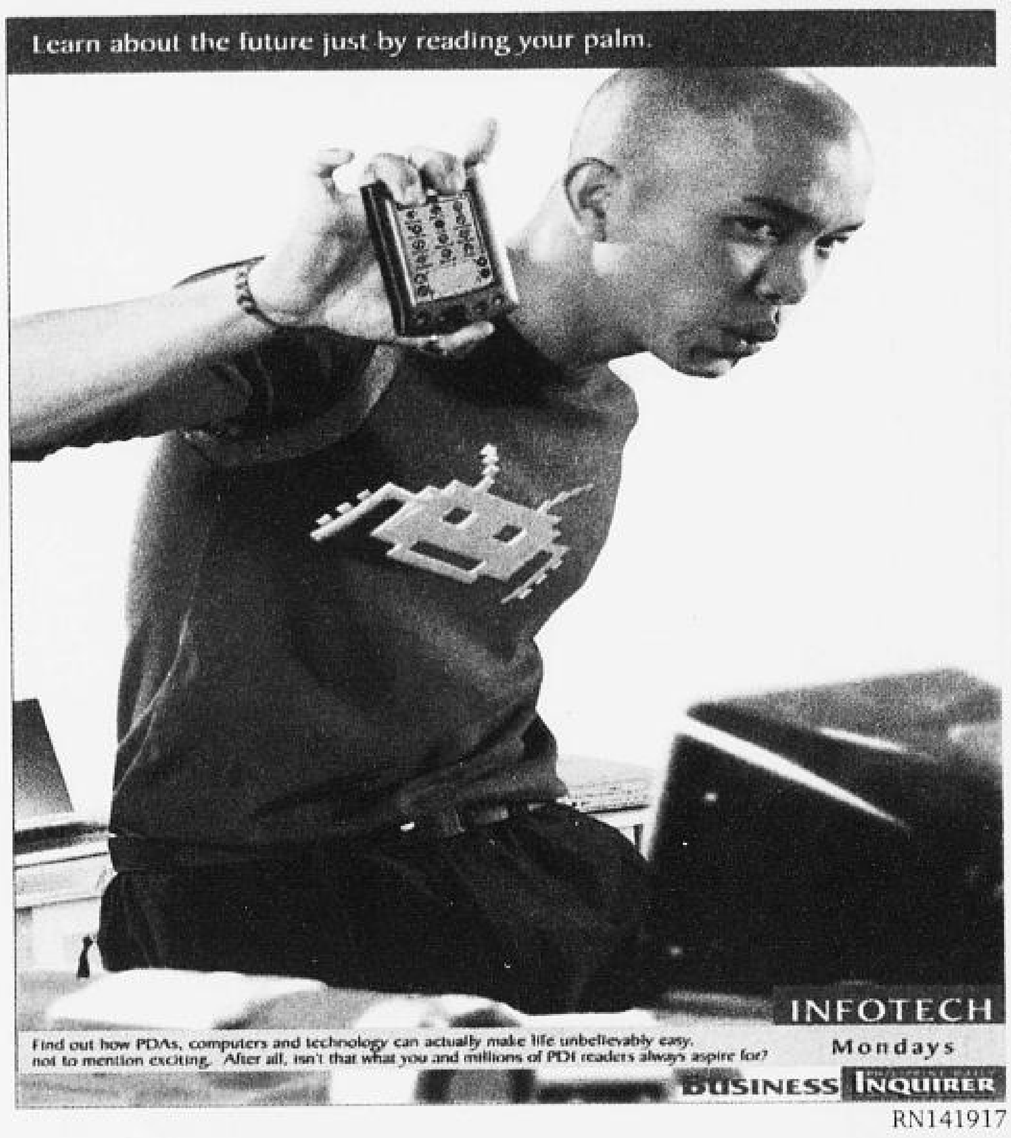
HAPPY Diamond white gold lariat necklace with matching ring



DIAMOND-STUDDED Ice Cube watch



HAPPY Sport Oval watch



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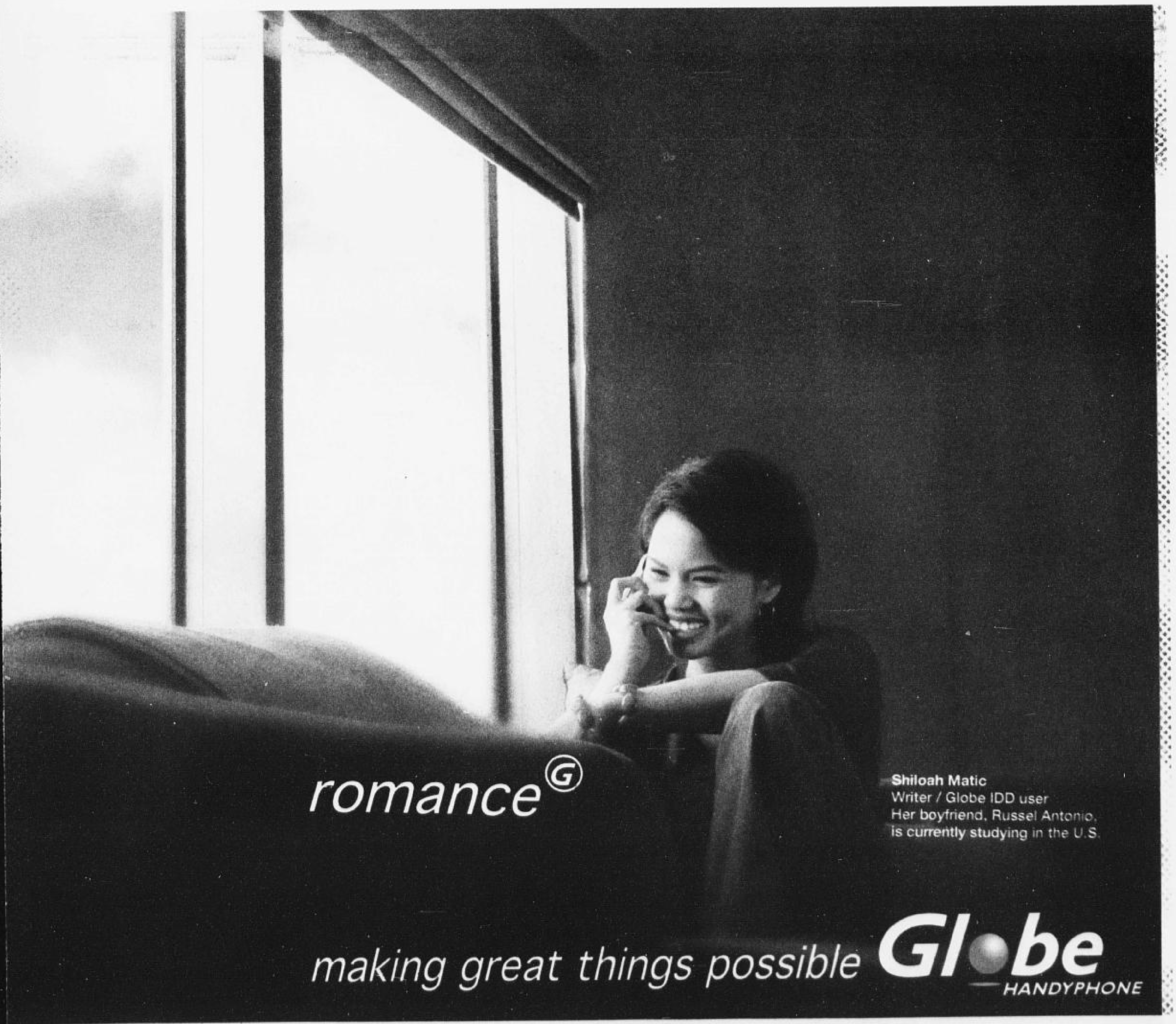

Shiloah Matic
Writer / Globe IDD user
Her boyfriend, Russel Antonio,
is currently studying in the U.S.

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Apples for Fridays

Lifestyle's new style guru starts a regular column today and wisely counsels that fashion should be sensible, fun and no-fuss

APPLES Aberin-Sadhwani

By Cathy Babao Guballa

AS a young girl growing up in her grandparent's home, Apples Aberin-Sadhwani already had an inkling of what her life's passion and work would be.

"According to my mom, whenever we would have visitors, I would wear each and every dress in my closet and parade in it around the living room," she laughs. "Apparently, I was already a clothes horse then."

The young clothes horse has grown and is now writing a column called "Apples' Pickings" in this section starting today and every Friday hereafter.

Readers can now send in their problems relating to fashion—from where to get body-slimming innerwear to what to wear on a cruise—and Apples can give them stylish but practical solutions.

Best advice

The best piece of fashion advice Apples herself has received from anyone is "to be myself in everything I do, including the way I dress, and not to take fashion too seriously. It should always be effortless and fun! I learned all this from my mom and my stylish friends in the industry."

As for her personal style, she defines it as "classic with just a bit of edge." Most of the time she wears timeless pieces that have been in her closet for many seasons. "But every now and then, I enjoy creating contrasts by matching my classic pieces with something unexpected, trendy or out of the ordinary," she shares.

"When the prarie skirt was all the rage, I wore one but made sure it looked completely different," she cites. "Instead of the usual skirt, mine was totally frayed and deconstructed. Now that cargo pants are so in, I wear them with high heels and a plain tank top. I also love wearing faded, distressed jeans with ultra-feminine tops, pearl strands and heels."

Wardrobe staples

What are the five staples in the wardrobe of someone like Apples?

"Jeans because you can wear them everywhere and dress them up or down depending on your mood; a shift or sheath dress because when you can't figure out what to wear, you can just slip it on and accessorize with feminine shoes and pearls; crisp white polo shirt, black pants and pearl studs and strands that are not necessarily worn together."

Apples admires Audrey Hepburn, Jackie O, Coco Chanel and Stella McCartney for their strong sense of personal style but gives credit to mom Ofelia for her fashion sense.

"I definitely inherited my fashion sense from her. She always looks clean and well-put together in an effortless way. But the best thing I learned from her is to dress according to my personality and to always look neat and clean," she smiles.

Early start

Apples started at 16 when fashion choreog

APPLES/ F4

A PHOTO shoot from the early 1990s.

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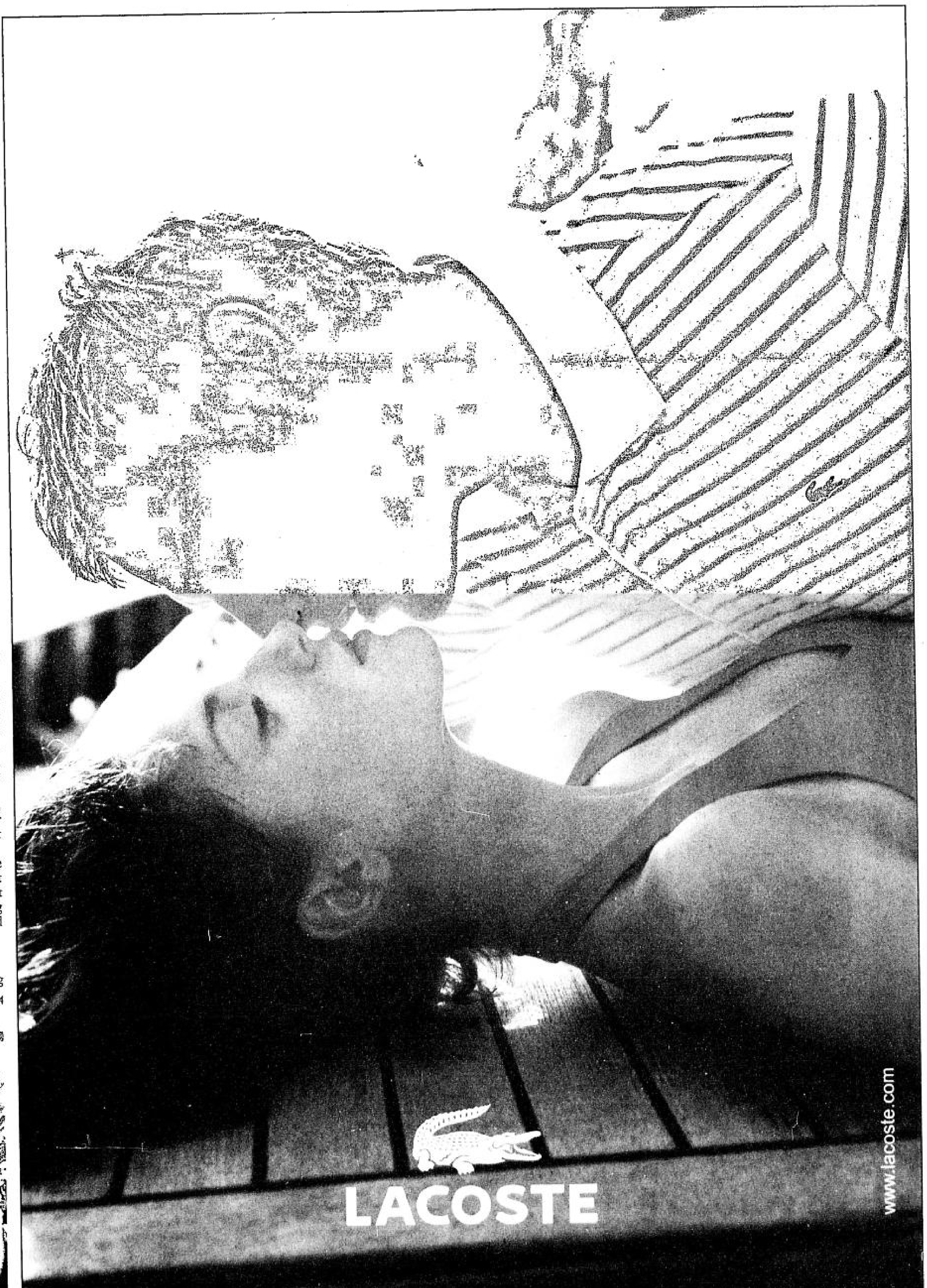

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Of minis and fashion trends for summer 2003

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

THE MINISKIRT seems to be making a big comeback in the fashion scene. I'm over 30 and quite ambivalent about wearing something short and sexy. Is it true that older women should refrain from wearing this leg-baring article of clothing?

The mini made its debut in the international catwalk in the 1960s, thanks to revolutionary designers André Courréges and Mary Quant. Liberal-minded hippie chicks picked up the craze instantly so that it became one of the most popular trends during that era. The muse of the moment was an androgynous Twiggy clad in Pucci-esque or psychedelic micro-minis. It's safe to say that the mini has its own special place in fashion history.

The miniskirt is definitely back this season. Although it was quite popular a couple of years ago, it is making an even stronger comeback in 2003. Fashion houses the world over presented their own versions of the mini-from micro-mini, band-aid-like skirts, utilitarian styles and bright satin evening wear.

So, should a woman over her thirties dare to wear a miniskirt? I always say that one should not follow trends unless it suits one's personal style, body type and age. Try to be realistic and objective enough to determine whether you have the body and the legs to carry such a look.

Nubile twenty-somethings can easily wear micro-mini skirts simply because they have the legs (minus all the cellulite and excess fat) for it. Even then, not all of them can afford to don this unforgiving article of clothing.

A good compromise would be to wear a skirt that hovers above the knee—two to three inches above the knees is safe enough. At least, you are still in fashion without being a fashion victim. And avoid wearing heels so you don't end up looking like a tart. Wear feminine-looking slides or thongs instead.

It's also a good idea to wear your minis during relaxed weekends. Don't wear them to the office, as modesty is always a must in the workplace.

Nevertheless, if your personal style and body type are similar to the likes of Carrie Bradshaw of "Sex in the City" fame, go ahead and wear your mini to your heart's content. But like Carrie, make sure you are comfortable with the idea of baring your gams so you can wear your miniskirt with utmost confidence.

I'm quite fond of reading about "what's in" in fashion. It's so hard to keep up with the ever-changing trends that it's such a relief to have fashion authorities point out what the latest ones are. Can you, plus some of your stylish friends and favorite designers, please give a list of what is in for summer 2003 in Manila?

About a month ago, a reader asked for ways to update her otherwise boring wardrobe. She wanted suggestions on what pieces she could purchase to update her look. To answer her, I asked five of Manila's most stylish women to give suggestions that catered to her lifestyle.

Since you, along with several other readers, have asked for another, more detailed list, I have decided to go ahead and provide you with this summer's most fashionable trends.

As you have requested, I have asked some of my friends in the fashion industry to give their suggestions. And being the true fashionistas that they are, they have asked me to remind you to only adapt trends that suit you.

You need not take fashion literally, as individual style is ultimately more important than keeping up with the latest trends. All you need are a few key pieces, which you can wear with your staples, to update your wardrobe.

Take your pick from our lists of "what's in" for summer 2003:

My list

- Chinoiserie—the Asian influence is stronger than ever. Micro-mini cheongsams and stylized silk brocade Japanese kimonos were evident in the international spring/summer 2003 collections.
- Flirty and feminine dresses—1940s- and 1950s-inspired dresses in soft fabrics, floral prints and diaphanous layers are a big hit this summer
- Skinny pants—if you are slim and saddlebag-free, go for super-slim, legging-like trousers. If you can't carry this look, a good alternative would be stovepipe pants that are slim but not tight.
- Cargo details—the military trend of past seasons is still evident in skirts, tops and pants. Create a fashionable contrast by wearing silk cargo pants with a tank top and high heels for an exciting evening look
- Miniskirts

> The mini makes a major comeback as the sporty spirit becomes the hot look of the hot season

- Pink and other pastel hues
- Gold jewelry—charm bracelets that are reminiscent of the 1980s are back in style. You can also try wearing double chain necklaces with different pendants
- Peekaboo toe shoes—whatever the heel, shod yourself in this latest sexy style of footwear
- Flat thong sandals
- Funky sneakers

Randy Ortiz

President of the Fashion Design Council of the Philippines

- The utilitarian look—stylish working clothes inspired by military uniforms and the like
- Zippers, studs and snaps used as accents
- Asian inspiration—not in the literal sense but in terms of fabrication such as the use of silk brocade for a top, bottom or dress
- Micro-miniskirt—worn alone or over tight pants, which are also very hot this season. Wear the mini in various styles like wraparound, basic A-line or tiered.
- The vest—made of denim, knitted fabrics, jacquard, brocade and other such fabrics and worn alone or over a tube top
- Satin for evening pants
- Denim—still reigning in the fashion scene
- Hand-woven indigenous materials—combine a piña top or ikat skirt with pieces made of denim and other commercial fabrics for a unique look.
- All shades of pastels mixed with earth hues
- Vintage-inspired prints like Pucci patterns, paisley and dots
- Brown—combine the "new black" with pastels, acid colors and jewel tones like aqua, chartreuse, burnt orange, Bordeaux, canary yellow and emerald green
- Open-toed pumps with stiletto or wedge heels

Chechel Joson

Makeup and fashion stylist, Preview Magazine's 50 most stylish women in Manila 2002

OF MINIS/ F4

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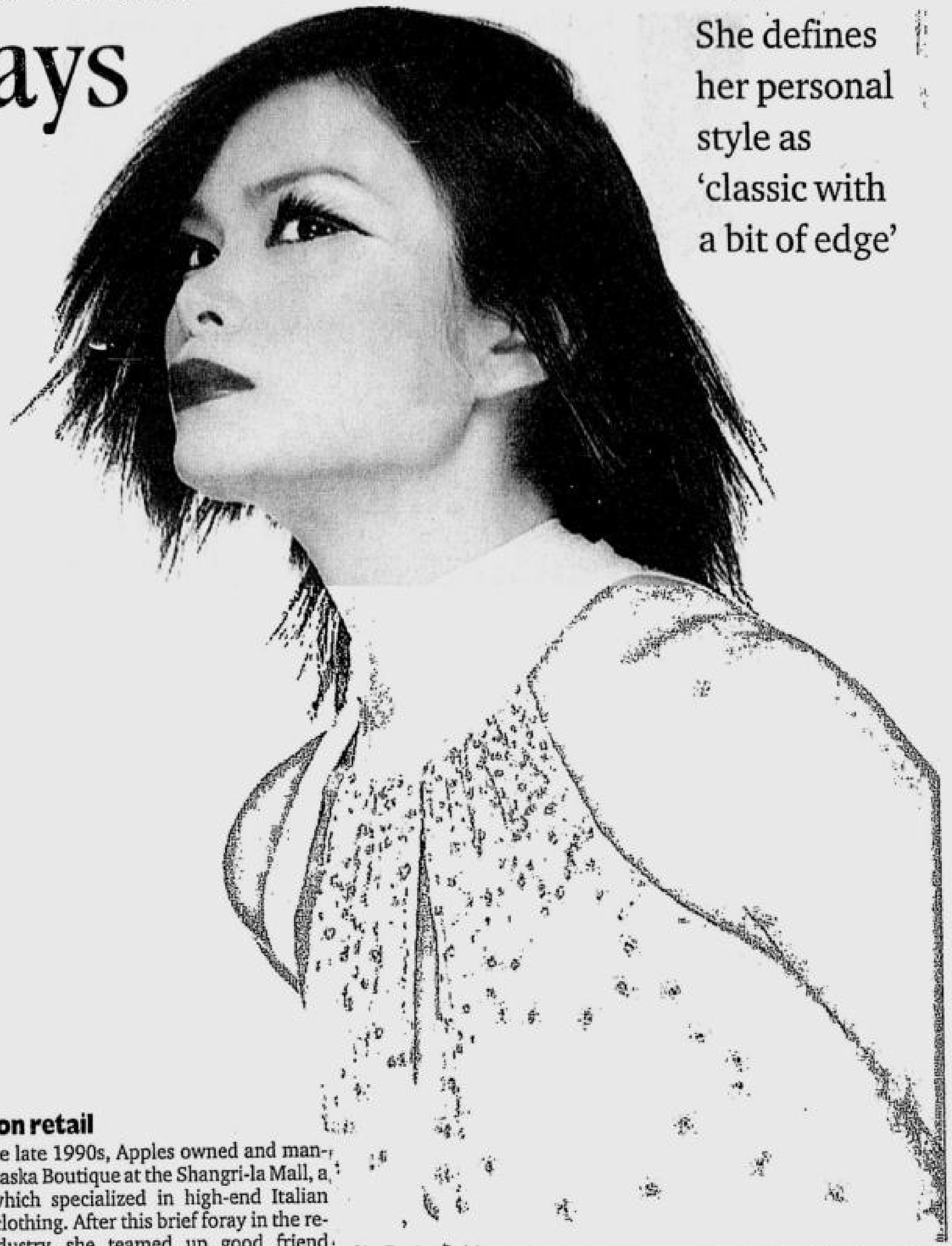
Apples for Fridays

From page F1

rapher Boy Saulog spotted her at a fashion show.

"My cousins and I were guest models for Malu, Vicky and Letlet Veloso's show and we were doing a dance/debutante number to the tune of "You are My Lucky Star." The director, Boy Saulog, thought I had potential to be a model so he talked to my mom and shortly after started hiring me to wear more shoes for the Velosos and eventually, other brands and designers, " she looks back.

A short while later Apples joined the Professional Model's Association of the Philippines and went on to work for Manila's best designers, the likes of Inno Sotto, Pitoy Moreno, Ben Farrales, Pepito Albert, Joe Salazar and many others.



She defines her personal style as 'classic with a bit of edge'

Fashion retail

In the late 1990s, Apples owned and managed Maska Boutique at the Shangri-la Mall, a shop which specialized in high-end Italian ladies clothing. After this brief foray in the retail industry, she teamed up good friend Tweetie de Leon-Gonzales in editing Cosmobride Magazine and until last year, Bride and Home magazine. Simultaneously, she also wrote a fashion column for another newspaper until early last year.

Married to businessman Raj Sadhwani and mother to Samantha and Martin, she spends as much time with her family as possible when she isn't teaching a modeling course for young men and women at the Trumpets Playshop. She is also an image consultant for Emphasis Salon where she conducts personality enhancement seminars for corporate clients.

Apples has been cited by the top women's magazines as one of Manila's Top Stylish Women (Mega Magazine 1996) and Manila's Most Stylish (Preview, 2002).

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

APPLES and Raj with kids Samantha and Martin

Of minis and fashion trends . . .

From page F3

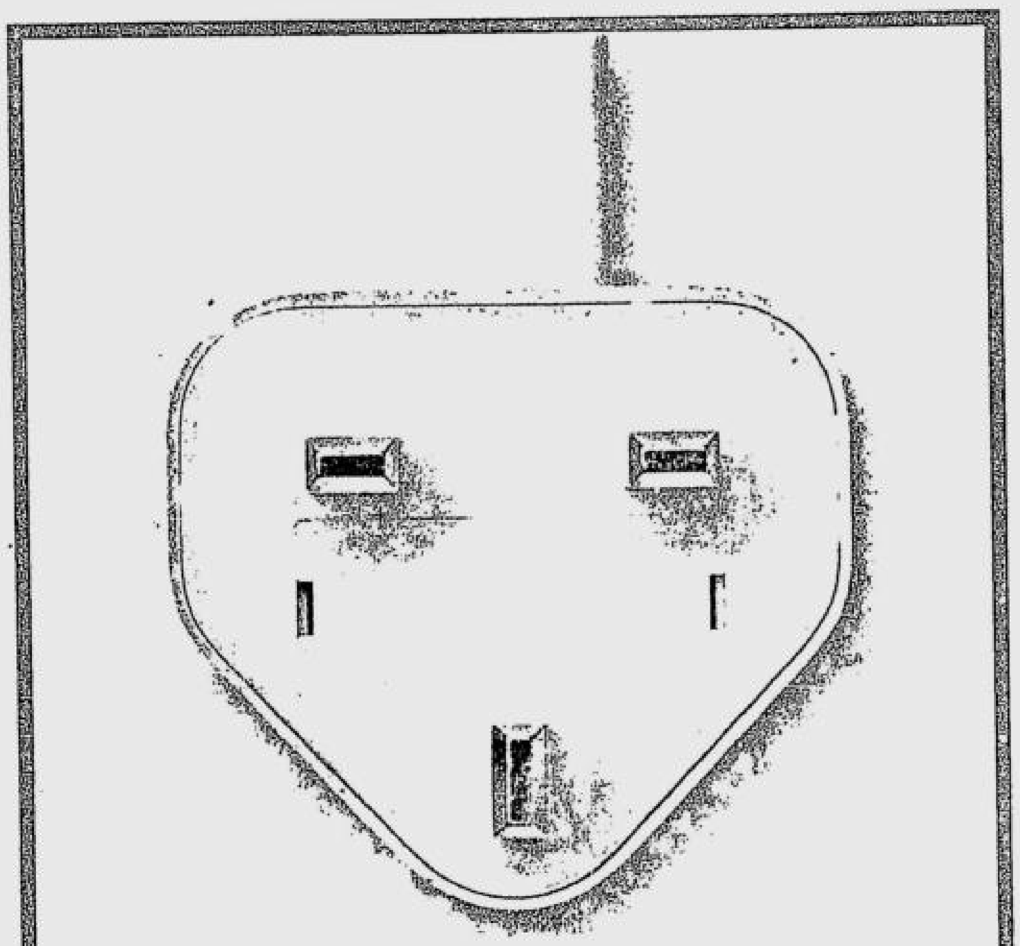
- The romantic look—a floral blouse, bell sleeves and a pastel skirt are all very feminine and girly
- Sporty chic—incorporate sports jerseys and hooded jackets into your everyday, ordinary wear for added pizzazz
- Asian inspiration
- Vintage with a touch of modern—the contrast of romantic old and cutting edge can look interesting and chic
- Miniskirts
- Jumpsuits
- Pastels
- Monochromatic greens and pinks
- Floral prints
- Gold and metallic accessories such as pastel metallic high-heeled sandals
- Utilitarian accessories like a fatigue tote bag
- Embellished bags
- Wooden or woven wedge heels
- "The new smoked"—smoky eye makeup in gold, brown and bronze hues
- Eye makeup colors in a mixture of blue and green (the colors of the ocean)

Izza Gonzales-Agana

Fashion model and stylist, Mega Magazine's 10 most stylish women 2002

- The utilitarian look
- Miniskirts
- Satin in bright colors for evening wear

OF MINIS/ F5



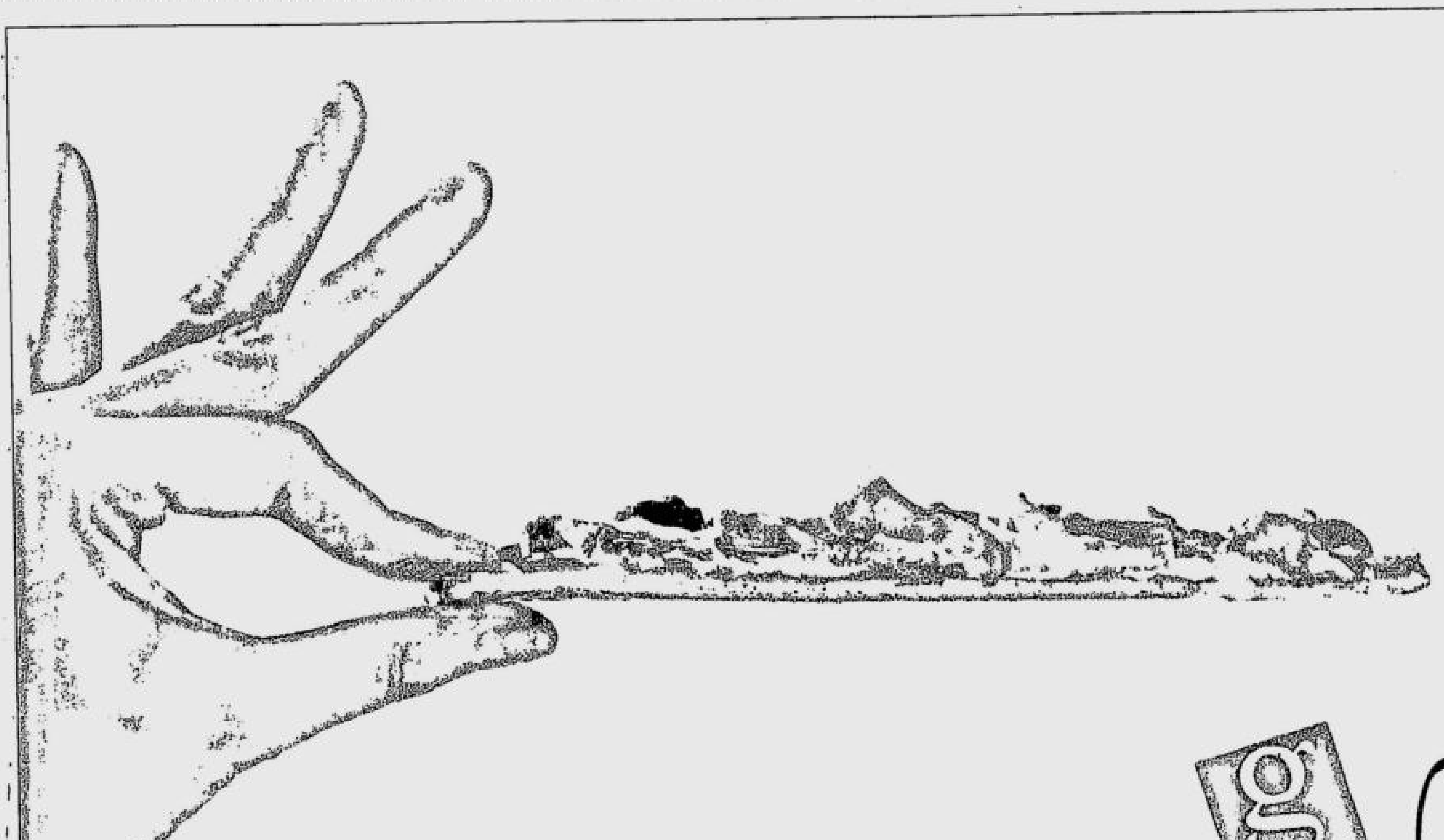
"Don't let me fall for you if you won't be there to catch me."

Make that instant love connection.
Come celebrate Valentine's at the Power Plant Mall.

From beauty tips, romantic serenades to flirty shindigs—this season of hearts will definitely excite you!

92.3 Rhythms
THE MOST HIT MUSIC
MAGIC 89.9
NESCAFÉ
entxt

POWER PLANT MALL



Our pizza line

greenwich

Crispy Thins

Available in Pizza

Of minis and fashion trends for summer 2003

From page F4

- Light natural fabrics like linen, cheesecloth and cotton—perfect for hot and humid Manila
- Nehru-inspired tops
- Straw bags
- Slip-ons
- Flat pointed shoes
- Sneakers

Rhett Eala

Fashion designer, Wink; Mega Magazine's best designer of women's daywear 2001

- The Courréges look—boxy jackets and short A-line skirts
- Rock star chic—edgy pieces like frayed chiffon blouses
- The sophisticated look—sleek and sharp classics with a modern, architectural edge.
- Asian influence such as the Mao collar
- Feminine, dainty details like bows and lace
- Lots of pink
- White
- Big floral prints
- Minimal beadwork

Rissa Samson

Fashion model, writer; Preview Magazine's 50 most stylish women in Manila 2002

- 1950s inspired clothing like full skirts, sweater sets, Capri pants
- Athletic wear as everyday wear—thanks to the influence of MTV, sportswear is no longer just for the gym. Wear pieces from Adidas' vintage collection or Puma's latest line for a sporty but chic look.
- Miniskirt, micro-miniskirt and short shorts
- Denim is always in and can be worn in many different ways
- Bright ice cream colors like lime, lemon, strawberry or orange—if you must wear black, combine it with these bright shades for an updated summer look
- Soft colors like pink, apricot or lavender—if you don't normally wear colors, these subdued shades are the perfect alternative for you.
- Prints like stripes, dots and florals
- White always looks clean, refreshing and works well in the city or on the beach.
- Brown—mix this with bright or pastel hues
- Goggle-like oversized sunglasses
- Flat shoes and sandals
- Peekaboo toe shoes

Tweetie de Leon-Gonzalez

Fashion model, writer and jewelry designer; Preview Magazine's 50 most stylish women in Manila 2002

- The utilitarian look
- Skinny pants
- Miniskirts
- White
- Heavy charm bracelets—add more trinkets to your existing charm bracelet
- Sneakers—Nike, of course!
- De-haired and blemish free skin—with the many options available to women, there's no longer an excuse to ignore skin concerns
- Fitness and a healthy lifestyle
- Honesty, loyalty and respect among friends

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com

frenzy
This Valentines day... if you have to do it, do it right!
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frenzy mint
frenzy orange
Your Intelligent Move!
frenzy
"The Party Condom"
Get into it!
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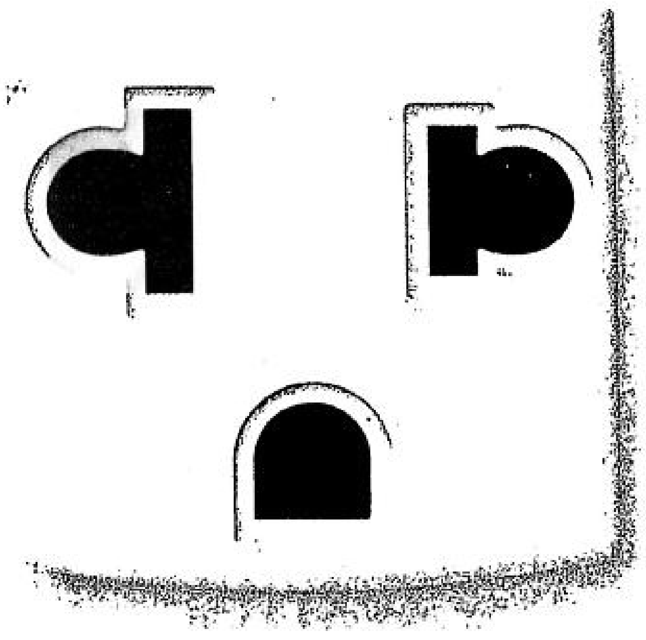


"If good looks were a minute, you'd be a long day."

The Kikay Fair, *Feb. 7-16 at the North and South Courts*

Turn him on with your red-letter radiance! Check out the fabulous accessories, makeover and beauty booths at this special Valentine fair.

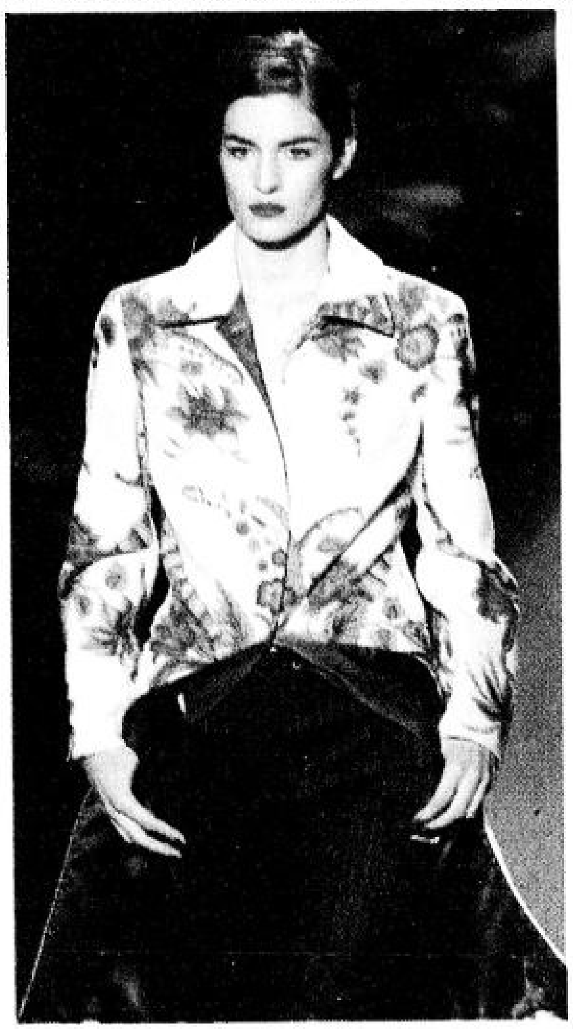
Make that instant love connection.
Come celebrate Valentine's at the Power Plant Mall.

POWER PLANT MALL

just got better.

Thin is definitely in! Introducing a new addition to the Greenwich pizza menu -- New Greenwich Crispy Thins. Your favorite pizzas made thinner so every bite is crispier and toppings are tastier. Make it thin. Make it Greenwich.

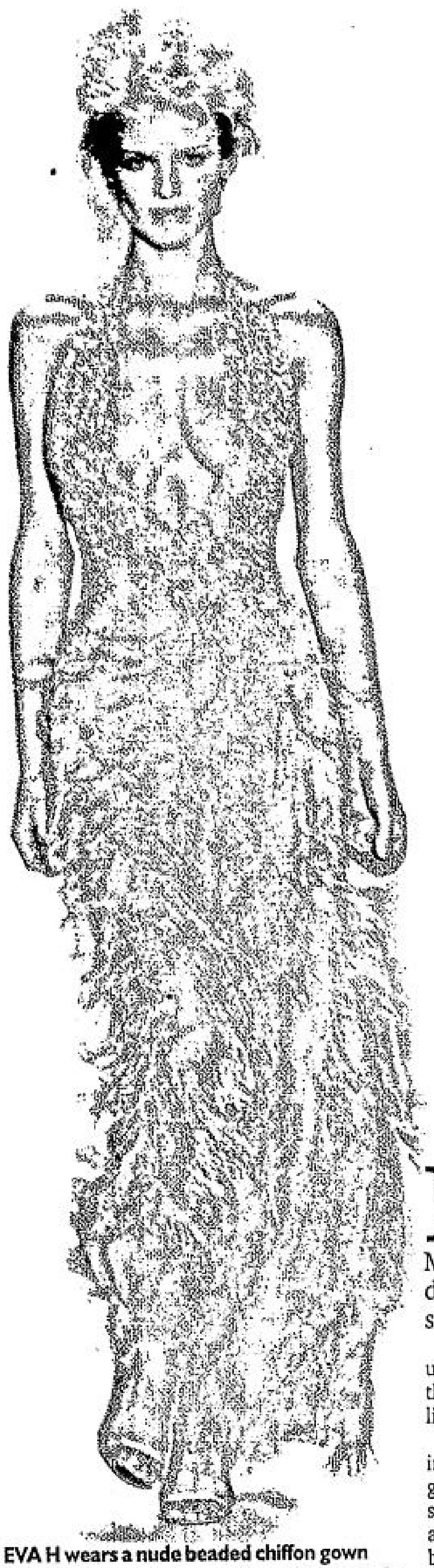
lia, Greenwich Special, Pizza Burger Deluxe and Garden Fresh Pizza.



PRINTED wool coat and pinstripe pant at the Carolina Herrera Fall 2003 Fashion Show. AFP

PINK silk satin jacket with a matching feather-trimmed stole over black velvet tuxedo pants from Oscar de la Renta's fall 2003 collection. AP

FUSCHIA silk/wool pleated top and black silk/wool skirt at the Carolina Herrera Fall 2003 Fashion Show. AFP



EVA H wears a nude beaded chiffon gown with feathers at designer Oscar de la Renta's Fall 2003 fashion show REUTERS

'Classicists' present luxurious, glamorous autumn line

NEW YORK—Looks of tailored elegance filled New York's fashion runways on Monday as classic stalwarts Oscar de la Renta and Carolina Herrera showed their clothes for autumn.

De la Renta unveiled a line lathered in luxury, from trousers of rich suede to capes of thick cashmere and ballroom gowns of brilliant brocade.

He showed his timeless knee-length coats in brown boucle with a fringed hem or in burgundy cashmere with a sable collar, and trim suits in black wool boucle or cognac-hued silk and wool decorated with delicate leather embroidery.

A sophisticated selection of knee-length cocktail dresses featured deeply cut, off-the-shoulder necklines in luscious black, red or brown silk brocade, accented with diamonds at the neck or waist.

For evening wear, arguably de la Renta's forte, the designer showed women's tuxedos in black silk velvet or gray cashmere flannel, graceful high-necked jackets and airy strapless ankle-length frocks with fitted bodices and full skirts built tier upon tier in taffeta ruffles.

The most showy gowns were re-embroidered silk brocade in prints of red, gold and blue, with full, ballroom skirts, while the sleekest and sexiest was a straight, strapless brown velvet gown, worn under a cream persian lamb trench coat, that evoked glamorous memories of an era gone by.

50s Hollywood

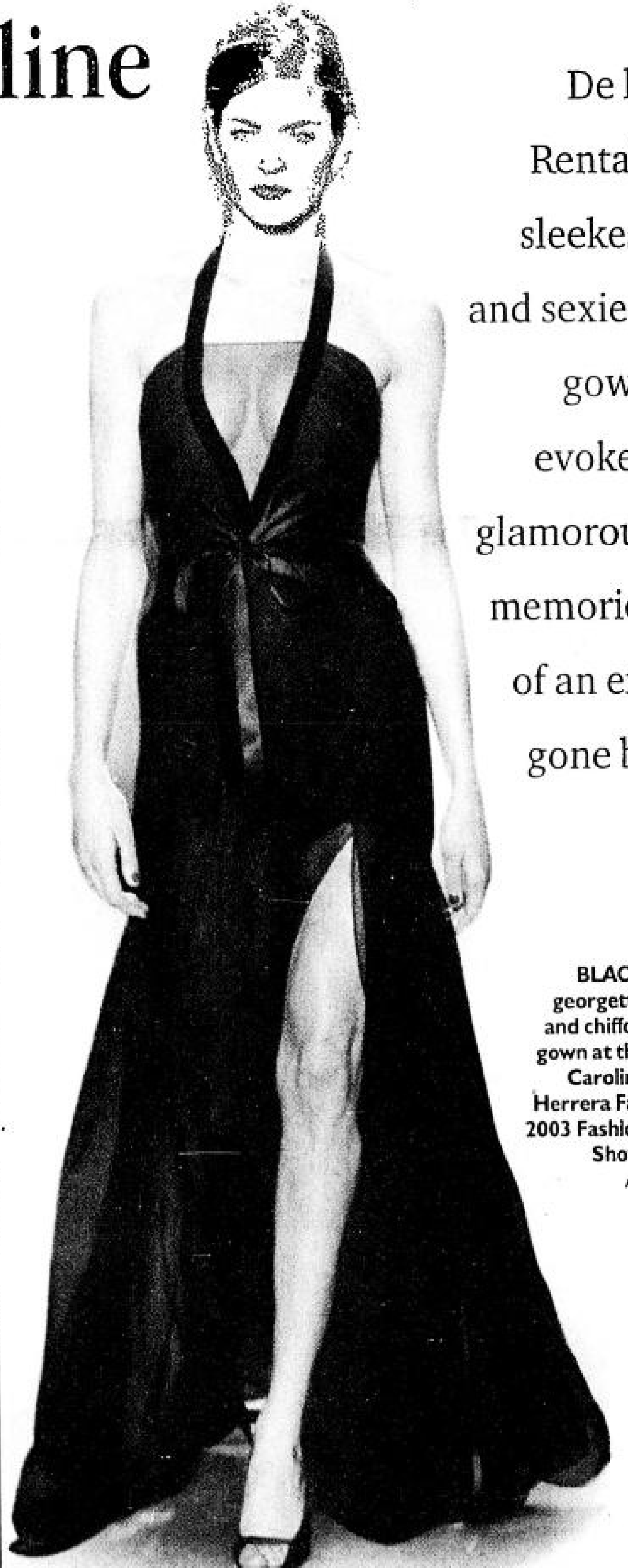
The glamorous influence of Hollywood in the 1950s imbued Herrera's clothes, especially her pairing of shimmering, wide-lapeled satin blouses with thin, high-waisted wool skirts and her fitted suits in brown and beige houndstooth or pearl gray herringbone flannel, with knee-length skirts and front kick pleats.

Herrera also twinned sedate printed straight skirts with supple leather jackets in burgundy and butterscotch.

Her tones were rich but muted, especially a satin of Prussian blue, while she added brilliance to chic black evening gowns with splashes of fuchsia insets or beadwork.

Her evening looks were sophisticated, mostly satin, velvet and chiffon gowns in understated tones of glistening platinum and shining black, with princess-like full skirts dripping with tiers of beads, chiffon folds and satin ribbons.

Also slated to show on Monday was design house BCBG and the design team of Badgley Mischka, known for rich gowns flowing with glittering beadwork. *Reuters*



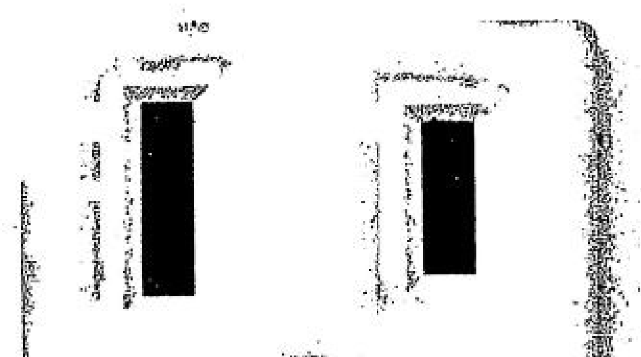
De la Renta's sleekest and sexiest gown evoked glamorous memories of an era gone by

BLACK georgette and chiffon gown at the Carolina Herrera Fall 2003 Fashion Show. AFP

YELLOW embroidered silk organza caftan, yellow silk brocade pant and yellow silk brocade lace up ankle boot at the Oscar de la Renta Fall 2003 Fashion Show. AFP

A BORDEAUX embroidered evening coat, white silk blouse, black velvet tuxedo pant and black satin diamond ankle strap sandal at the Oscar de la Renta Fall 2003 Fashion Show. AFP

YELLOW re-embroidered silk brocade jacket and turquoise satin cropped pant at the Oscar de la Renta Fall 2003 Fashion Show. AFP



"I think you've got something in your eye. Oh never mind, it's just a sparkle."

Single by Choice, *Feb. 14, 7 p.m. at the Plaza Garden*

Get hooked in this year's most daring singles party!
There's music, games, and a chance to win a trip to Boracay
with a guest celebrity!

Make that instant love connection.
Come celebrate Valentine's at the Power Plant Mall.

JOEY 92.3 MAGIC 89.9 NESCAFÉ

POWER PLANT MALL
AT ROCKWELL

Weekend program prepares couples for marriage

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

My girlfriend and I have been engaged for over a year now. Both of us are busy with our jobs. I am an accountant and she is a college instructor.

We plan to get married this May or June. Can you advise us on how to prepare for this change in our lives?

ROGER

One good way is to attend the Catholic Engaged Encounter (CEE), a marriage preparation program conducted on a weekend for couples planning to get married. "It is a time for them to share their feelings, hopes, disappointments, joys or frustrations and to do so openly and honestly in a face-to-face heart-to-heart setting designed to deepen and enrich their relationship with each other and with God. It is a time for couples to focus on their relationship away from distractions and tensions of everyday life," according to CEE literature.

You did not mention your religion, but the CEE program is open to all who are considering marriage. To quote someone who attended the seminar, "I (was) a little skeptical, being raised a Lutheran. I thought the Catholic Religion would be emphasized in an uncomfortable way. I thank you for making non-Catholics feel welcome."

During the weekend, two married couples and a priest discuss various topics about married life. Participants hear first hand how others are working at their marriage. "Each couple is given time to explore and share the strengths of their relationship and the areas for growth, their desires and attitudes, about marriage, sexuality, family, children, money, God and Church," the literature adds.

The weekend fee is P3,500 per couple, which covers accommodation, meals, supplies, etc.

The CEE weekend is held in retreat houses in Metro Manila. From now until June this year, it will be held at the Pollock Center inside the Ateneo de Manila University campus in Quezon City. You can request for a map from any of the couples listed below. The programs start at 5:30 p.m. on Friday and ends around 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Among the topics to be discussed are Openness in Communication, Signs of a Closed Relationship, Called to be One, Decisions in Marriage, Sexual Intimacy in Marriage, Becoming a Family, Planning a Life-Giving Marriage and Forgiveness in Marriage.

Schedule follows: Feb. 28-March 1-2, April 25-27, May 23-25, June 27-29, July 25-27, Aug. 22-24, Sept. 26-28, Oct. 24-26 and Nov. 28-30.

For more information, call any of the following: Fr. Dave Clay, CEE spiritual director, tel. 523-3361; Robbie and Berbadette Fabian, 829-6182; Dado and Cory Hipolito, 810-0222; Earl and Cel Bulan, 650-8003; Chin and Lorna Fernandez, 744-5581, and Vinchy and Elisha Lirios, 721-4153.

Just remember, "A wedding is a day . . . a marriage is a lifetime."

Second honeymoon

The recent 4th World Meeting of Families made my husband and me focus on our lives now, our children and how to face the future. I remember reading in your column about a seminar for married couples. Can you please tell us again about it? Surely many other married couples have the same problems as us. Thank you for understanding.

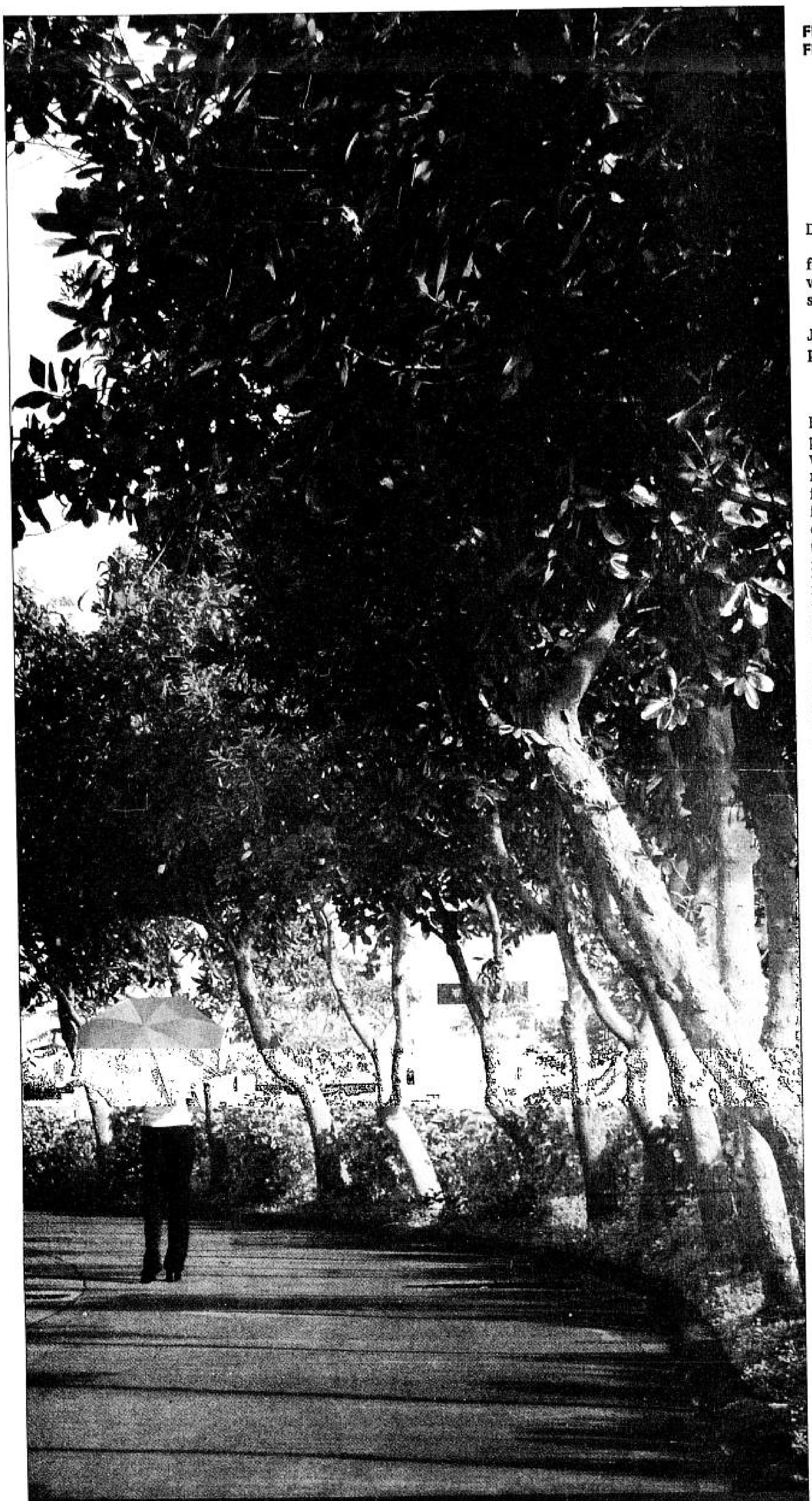
LINDA

A Marriage Encounter Weekend Seminar will be held Feb. 21-23 (Friday to Saturday) at Maria Antonia Parish Retreat House, Claretian Sisters, 48-A Cenacle Drive, Sanville Subdivision, Tandang Sora, Quezon City. This three-day live-in seminar is called by some their "second honeymoon." The fee is P2,500 for seminar kit, board and lodging, etc.

Topics covered include Encountering Oneself, Marriage in the Present Time, How to Reach Out, Feelings, Communication Skills without Ending in Hard Feelings, How to Make Your Spouse Feel, and Understanding Your Point of Views, Respecting Each Other, Understanding Your Spouse and How to Improve Your Relationship.

Call Gerry at 926-3002, 927-4415 or Hermie at 853-0110.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City



WHERE IS IT WRITTEN
THAT ONLY THOSE WHO'VE
LEFT US
SHOULD GET TO
REST IN PEACE?

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NO MUD-SOAKED, UNKEPT GARDENS.

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WE DON'T PRETEND TO BE HEAVEN ON EARTH,
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WE COME PRETTY CLOSE.

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OR 873-2923 / 874-4130 (LAS PIÑAS)

"I was just checking your tag to see if you were made in heaven."

Stages of Love, a Trumpets production
Feb. 14, 7 p.m. at the Concourse Level

Paolo Santos *with Hourglass Trio*
Feb. 15, 8 p.m. at the Lopez Strip

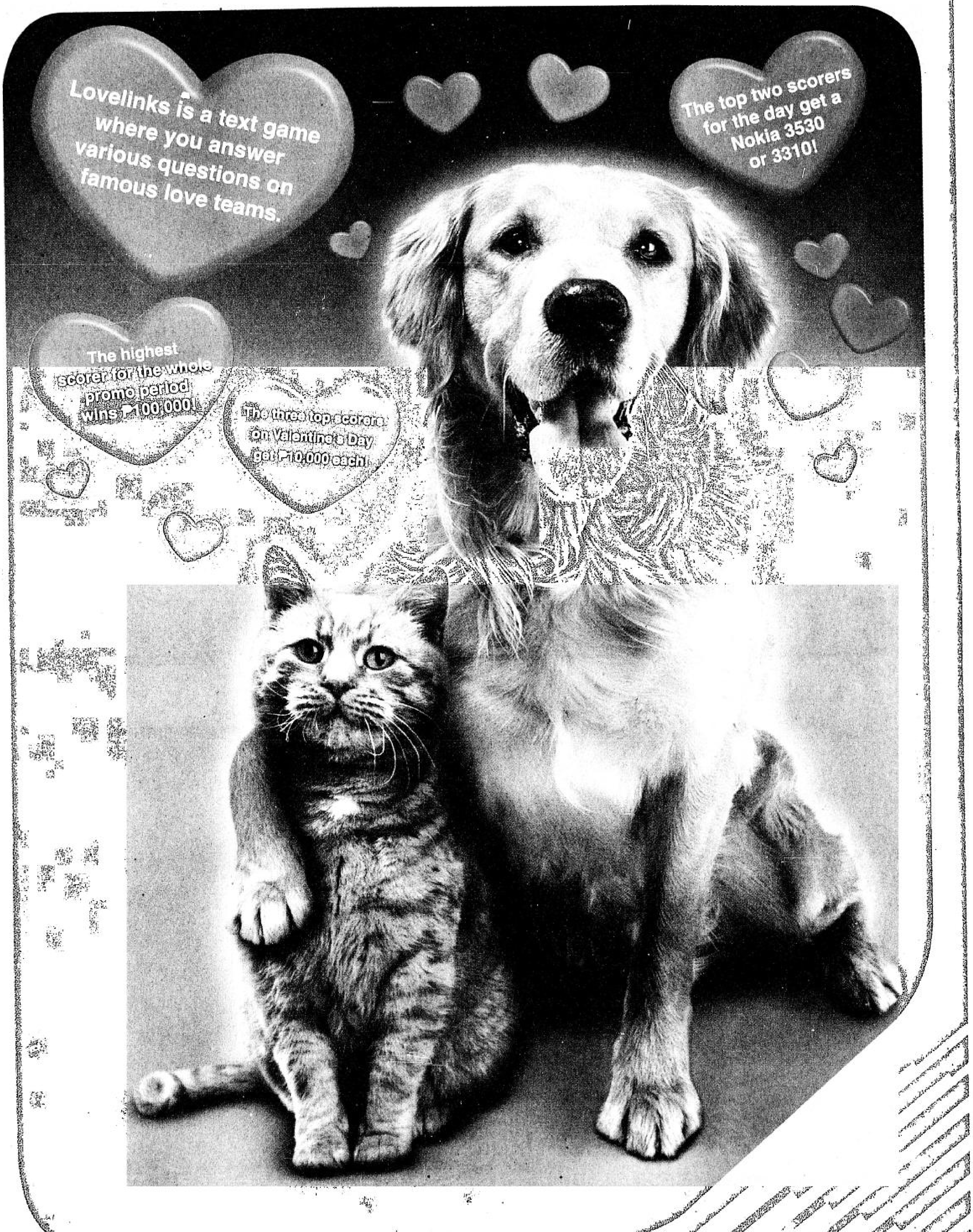
Monk's Dream Jazz Fest
Feb. 16, 4 p.m. at the Plaza Strip

Plug into romance to set the right Valentine mood.
Make that instant love connection.
Come celebrate Valentine's at the Power Plant Mall.

gentxt

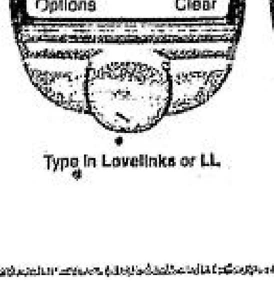
POWER PLANT MALL
AT ROCKWELL

Simply lucky in love


Lovelinks is a text game where you answer various questions on famous love teams.
The top two scorers for the day get a Nokia 3530 or 3310!
The highest scorer for the whole promo period wins ₱100,000!
The three top scorers on Valentine's Day get ₱10,000 each!

Join the Smart and Talk 'N Text Love Links Game.

SMART
Simply Amazing!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Options
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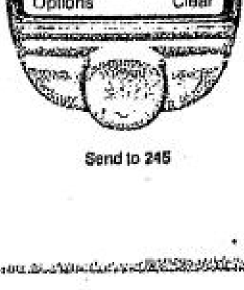
Type in Lovelinks or LL.


Phone number
245
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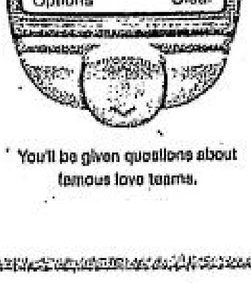
Send to 245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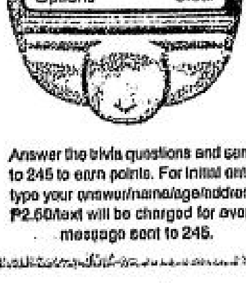
Sample Question:
Who is the love link of Jericho Rosales?
A. Jolina
B. Kristine
Reply with A or B

You'll be given questions about famous love teams.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B/Joe Cruz/25/
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Answer the trivia questions and send to 245 to earn points. For initial entry, type your answer/name/age/address. ₱2.50/text will be charged for every message sent to 245.

Get 250 extra points for every picture and operator logo downloaded!

Picture Message and Operator Logo requests will be charged ₱15.00/download

Picture Messages (to download, send PIC RANDOM to 245)

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0570, series of 2003.

Love means a cosmetic line

GODIVA
licorice
GODIVA
licorice

Fred decided to develop whitening products for his wife

FOR Valentine last year, I wrote about Calvin Klein's love life and how it inspired the names of his famous perfumes. I walked you through Obsession, where it all began, and Truth, the latest so far.

For this Valentine issue, I decided not to look too far for a story that would link beauty and love. This led me to a couple I met last year who made enough impact to be in this piece.

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

In an interview last year, I noticed the contrast between reserved and formal Fred Reyes and his effervescent wife Carleen Gutierrez Reyes, the duo behind Godiva Skincare products.

Fred is a BS Chemistry graduate with an MBA from the University of the Philippines. His first business, which required him to travel often to Japan, had nothing to do whatsoever with Godiva Skincare. He became interested in skin care because of his wife.[1]

Carleen had always loved the beach. Her happiest memories of childhood was going to Palawan with her family during vacations. Unfortunately, with her fair skin, she developed freckles and sunspots.

Fred decided to use his background in chemistry and look into whitening products. He read literature on whitening products and how safe they were. He found out that apparently, the Japanese agency in charge of food and drug was even stricter than its American counterpart because it would not allow the usual quick acting ingredients in whitening products as long as there was any risk of cancer or photosensitivity.

Although a product would pass the United States Food and Drug Administration and the local Bureau of Food and Drug, Fred did not want to put his wife at risk. The Japanese required that a product should not only be safe but should also yield visible results fast. The only thing that fit the criteria was licorice, which sells for a whopping seven figures a kilo while other materials cost only five or six figures.

Business venture

Fred decided to turn his project into a business to recoup his investment and to dispose of excess products. Besides, the technology of extracting the whitening agent from licorice was only available in Japan. The Reyeses came up with licorice whitening soap, astringent, whitening cream for face and lotion for the body came to be. The couple explored later the benefits of green tea as an anti-oxidant and made soap and matte sunblock cream with SPF 15 to protect from sun damage.

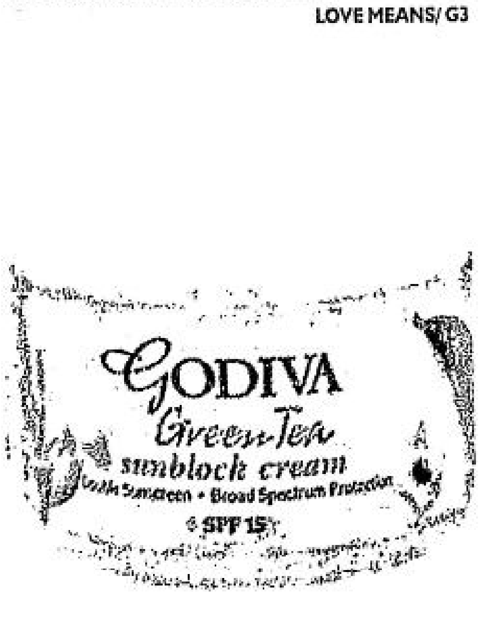
They chose the brand name Godiva for two reasons: 1. According to English legend, a naked Lady Godiva rode around on horseback with only long her red hair covering her porcelain smooth skin. 2. Godiva means "gift from God," which is how Fred considers Carleen, his inspiration and mother of his child.

I was surprised to learn they were in their mid-40s because she could have passed for someone in her late 20s and he looked thirtyish. I figured their products must be working results. She wore only sunblock and powder, mascara and light gloss. No lines, pigmentation and soggy skin were visible.

More products custom-made for Carleen

Licorice Whitening Deo and Anti-perspirant. Carleen's skin is so sensitive most deodorants darken her underarms. So she asked for one that would lighten them (or at least not darken them) and dry quickly so as not to leave streaks in dark shirts. **Whitening Toner.** When she and Fred hit their 40s, Carleen found astringent too drying. **Squalene Cool Lotion.** For sunburn, newly waxed legs, massage, insect bites and tired feet and legs. **AHA Fruit Acid.** The product refines Carleen's pores clogged by oil and dead skin cells by dissolving them. Used under moisturizer or sunblock, it lifts off dull skin on cheek areas to reveal soft balanced skin that is smooth and refined. **Face and Neck Firming Cream.** The

LOVE MEANS/ G3



Sounds of Romance
at The Megastrip

FEB. 14, 7:00PM
PHILOMUSICA

FEB. 15, 8:00PM
MIKNEAH

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Megamall Walkway, Julia Vargas Road, Ortigas Center

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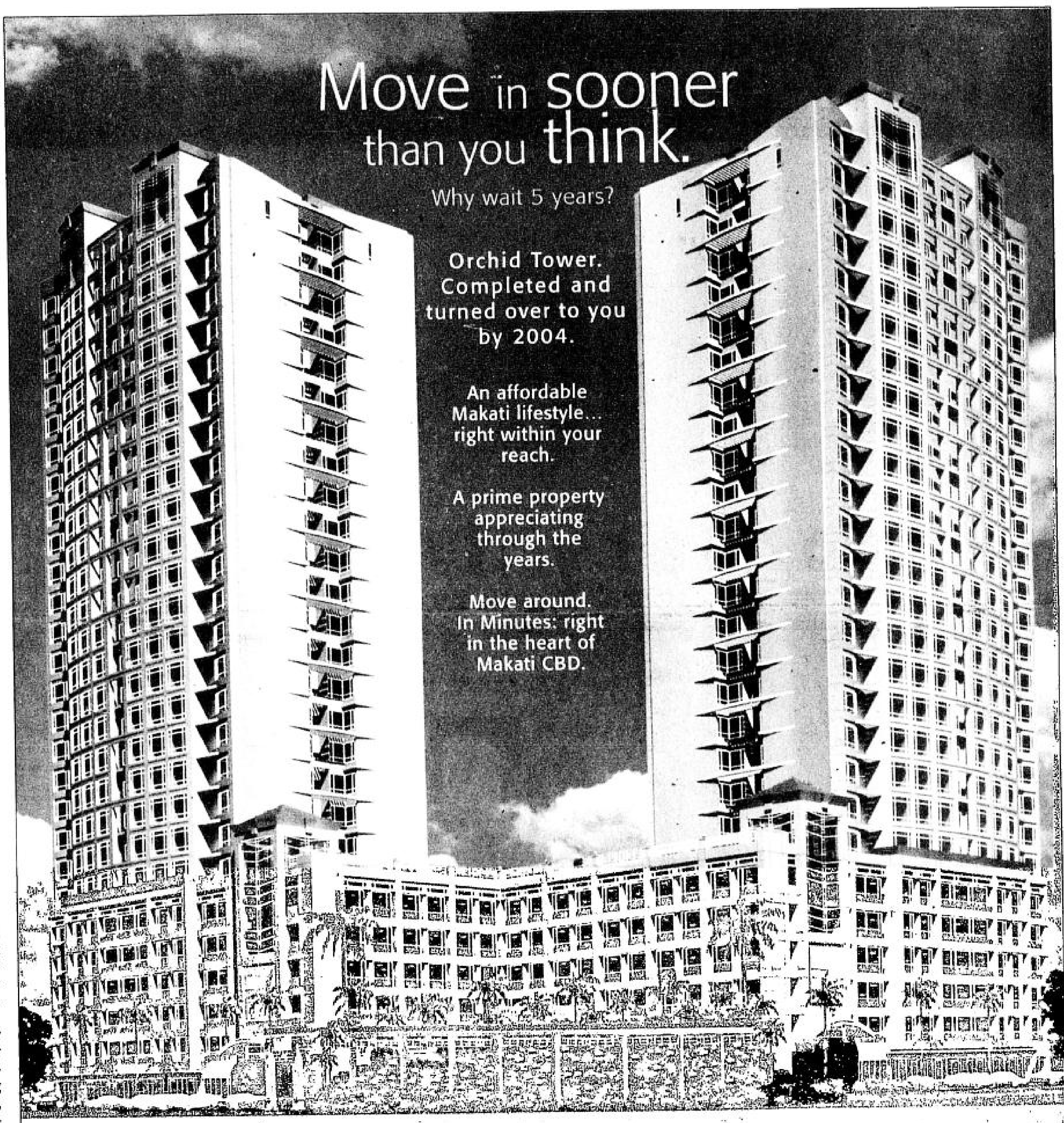

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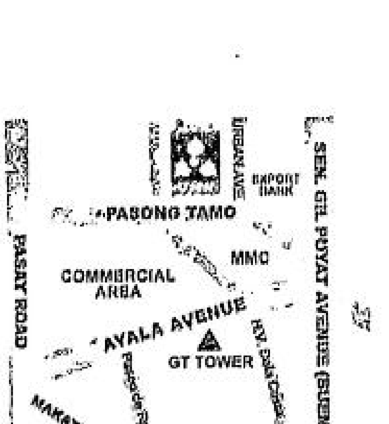

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FEDERALAND

For Announcement Purposes Only.

Headmasters present innovative hairstyles

HAIR by Madeleine Du Preez of Headmasters London, make-up by Robbie Pinera of L'Oreal Professionnel

L'OREAL Professionnel offers the best of international hairdressing with a recent exclusive session by the team of Headmasters. Headmasters is a dynamic and fast-growing salon group based in London and the South East of England. They already have 15 salons and will be opening another five this year.

Leading the team was Hugo Ratzel, Headmasters International art director. The Headmasters team produces regular photographic collections, which are widely publicized within the UK and abroad. The artistic team has been named London Hairdresser of the Year in 2001, while Hugo was a finalist in the Avant Garde Section last year. The group has also won the Salon Design of the Year at the British Hairdressing Awards in 2001.

The team also regularly appears in shows and exhibitions, and are invited to sessions for magazines including Elle, Tatler, The Guardian and M Magazine. This year, they will be doing the hair for the UK L'Oreal Colour Trophy Tour.

Joining Hugo to present the latest techniques in hair color was Madeleine Du Preez. She was a runner-up in Talent Spotting, a national competition in England for newcomers, and she finished the L'Oreal Colour Specialist degree. Together they showcased the Headmasters 2003 Collection, a modern, flexible combination of styles that could be adapted to every hair type.

CUTTING techniques by Hugo Ratzel

Other Headmasters Collections presented during the class were The Virgin Mobile Collection, whose theme was inspired by fashion, culture and music. The White Collection was monochromatic with a strong concept and high impact. The London Collection was a result of the salon's location being a city at the forefront of fashion, punctuated with its citizens' cutting-edge ideas. The Avant-Garde Collection allowed Hugo to unleash his creativity, using hair as a form of art . . . fusing hair designs with unconventional photography and other experimental concepts.

Watch out for L'Oreal Professionnel's next foreign guest collaborator, Laetitia Guenaou from Paris, who will be in Manila on March 17 to showcase Colour Illusions, this year's Spring/Summer hair trend from L'Oreal Professionnel.

HAIRCUT by Hugo Ratzel, haircolour by Madeleine Du Preez, fashion by Milkwear

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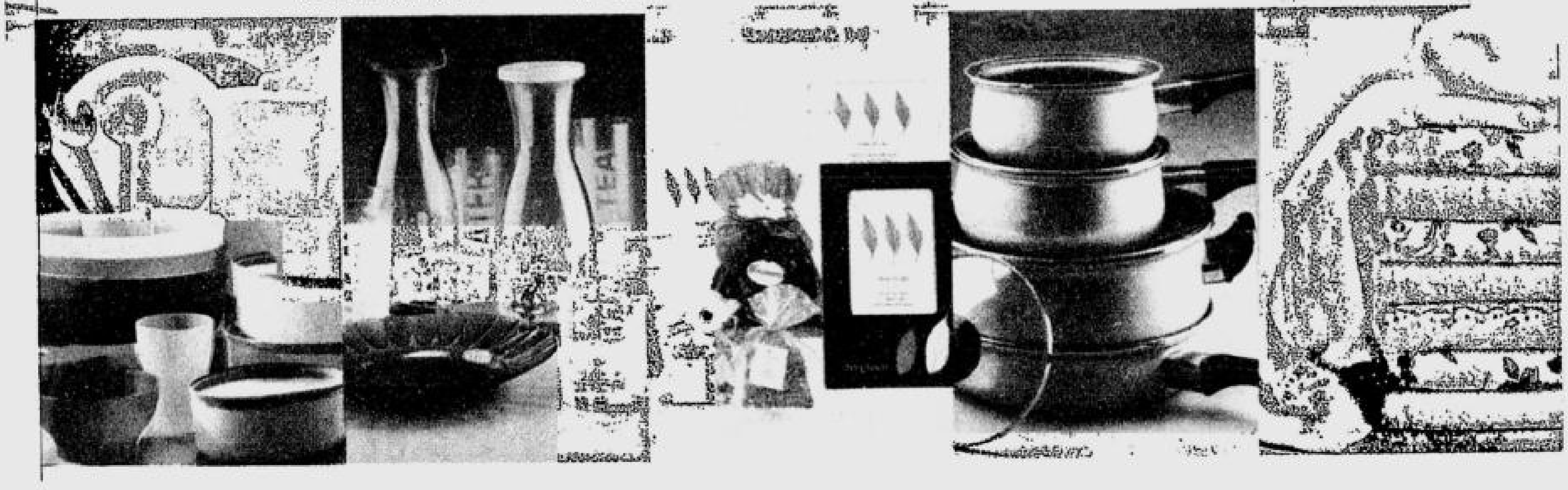
February 14 to 28



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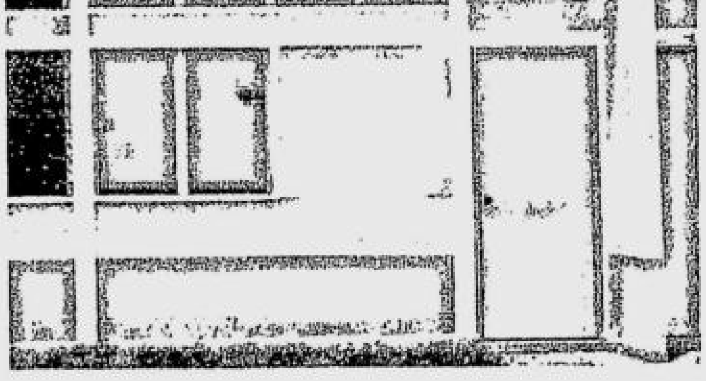

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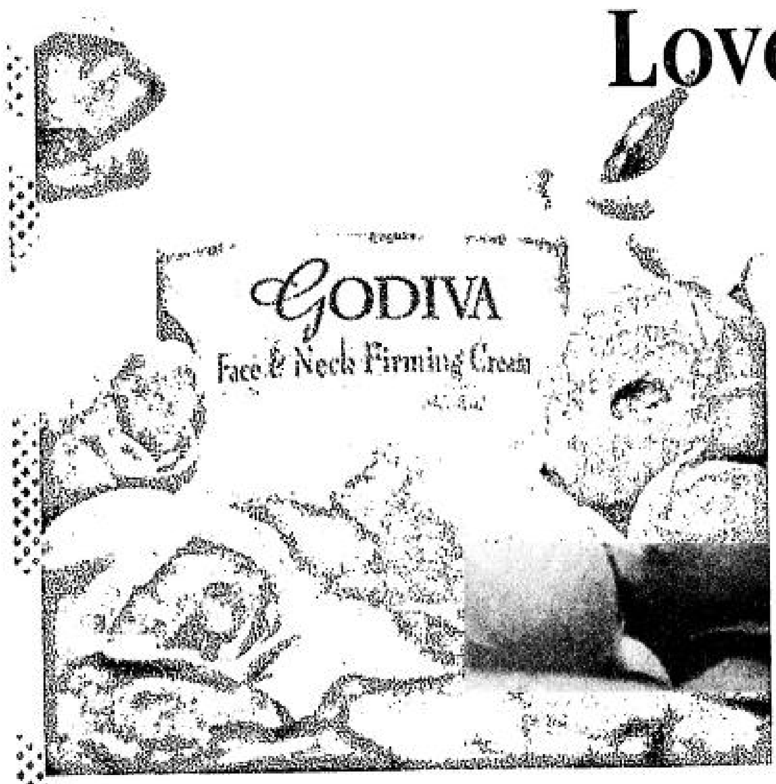
Love means a cosmetic line



From page G1

product has hyaluronic acid, which attracts moisture, reduces wrinkles, lightens age spots and firms skin in neck and face within eight weeks of use. Of course, sunblock is to be used during daytime.

The Reyeses have three kids aged 16, 10 and 3. The eldest has started to have problems with pimples so Fred developed an anti-blemish line of soap astringent and cream, which of course contains licorice to lighten scars while healing the pimples. All the children do not leave the house in daytime without sunblock. They are also trained this early to have good skincare habits. Fred and the two younger kids use the Green Tea Soap and Sunblock.

Good bargains

My favorite products are: **Whitening Deodorant**, P98. It lightened my underarms visibly. **LWhite Soap, Astringent and Cream.** For nighttime as it evens out my complexion even without foundation. **Green Tea Soap.** Used for bathing, it enhances mood and has a great scent. **G. Tea Matte Sunblock SPF 15.** Great primer under powder or foundation. **Whitening Pressed Powder in Nude SPF 15, P150.** It matches a wide variety of skin tones and gives a flawless finish above sunblock.

My biggest indulgence is the **AHA Fruit Acid**, P250 and P450, which I apply on legs to exfoliate dead skin cells that block pores and cause ingrown hair. It softens and exfoliates rough elbows and knees. **Whitening Body Lotion.** With a fruity floral scent, it evens out complexion on arms and legs and softens skin without a greasy feel. **Firming Cream, P250.** I use it on my neck and hands as these areas give one's age away and those signs cannot be surgically removed yet. My face is still on the oily side so the cream will cause me to break out but my hands are smooth, firm and supple.

The Godiva products are more expensive than most of their local counterparts but much lower than imported ones. The items I highlighted are what I consider great bargains.

GODIVA
SQUALANE
COOL
anti-stress lotion

LATIN ROMANCE. On Nicole: White lace top from Sinequanone by Momento, and Esprit burgundy stretch skirt with ruffles. On Chris: Linen long-sleeved top with embroidery from Brand-O-Rama (P600), available at Cinderella. Denims by San Francisco. On Melanie: Chiffon top by In Focus (P498), beaded bra-top in burgundy by Sisley. Beaded necklace in white from Colors & Beads (P529.75). Available at Cinderella.

Passion for red

SINCE red is the color of the season of hearts, Cinderella plays up this hot hue by mixing it with the classic black and white in sheer and lacy fabrics. Frill details and embroideries in red bring a dose of adventurous glamour to Valentine dressing. With corset and off-shoulder blouses, denims get a different twist. Men's dressing, on the other hand, takes a cue from Latin heartthrob Enrique Iglesias as loose tops with open necklines plunge into the "must-have" list.

Meanwhile, enjoy in-store photo-ops courtesy of the Picture Card Booth today and tomorrow in Cinderella, Megamall A. Lucky shoppers will also get the chance to win free gift items from any Cinderella store until Feb. 16 courtesy of Pierre Cardin, SYC, In Focus, Body & Soul and Smint.

SPANISH DENIM. On Nicole: Black, off-shoulder top with embroidery from Standout (P995). Available at Cinderella. On Melanie: Full corset top in black and red from Drezee, also available at Cinderella.

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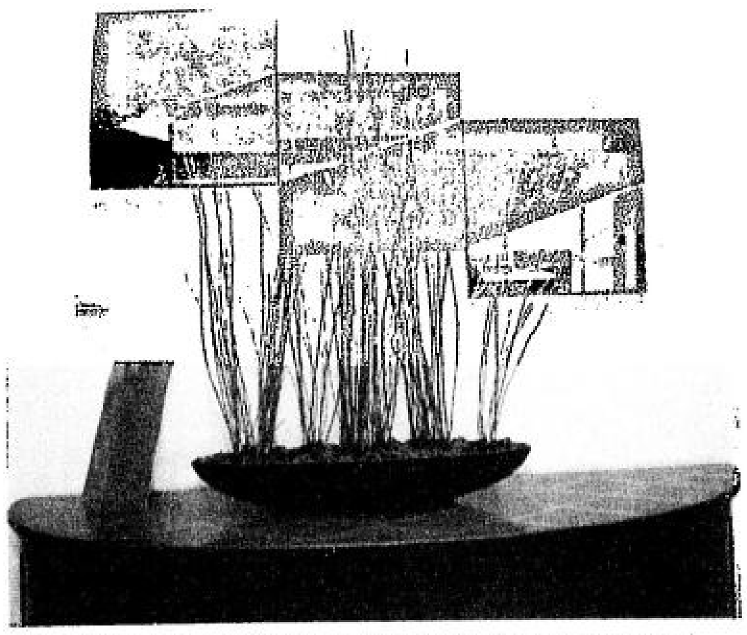
On the boulevard of breezy dreams

STORY ON PAGE H2



CHINESE influences extend to the horsehair plant and a series of tilted mirrors.

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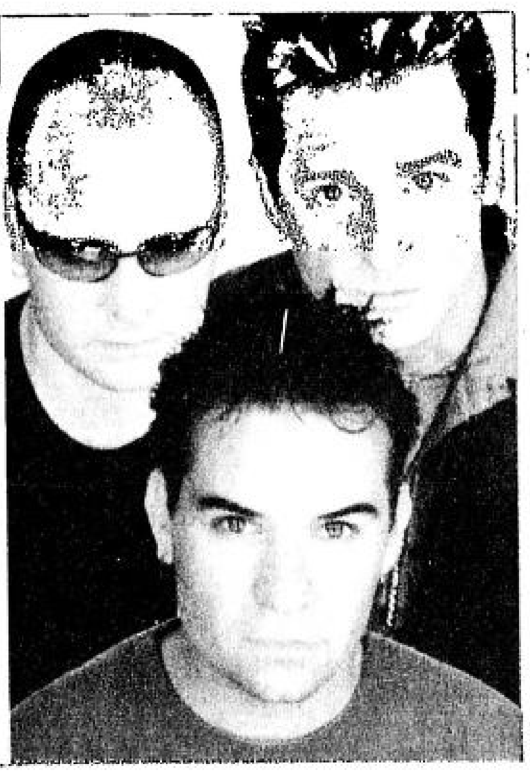

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February 15, 2003 - Sunday (Social Hall)

10:00 a.m.
Exhibit opens featuring Chinese, Japanese, Filipiniana and Victorian Wedding Motifs
A special centerpiece creation by event stylist Henry Pascual.

2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Bridal Hair and make-over by International Award Winning Make-Up Artist Jackie Rivera

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Velvet Mood

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Cocktails (by Invitation) and Music by Cristine Carlos (Garden Area)

7:00 - 7:10 p.m.
Invocation by Rev. Fr. Antonio Rosales, Parish Priest, Santuario de San Antonio Parish.

7:10 - 7:30 p.m.
The Groom Collection of Bergamo

7:30 - 7:40 p.m.
Butterfly release

Bridal Fashion Presentation by select Bridal Designers.
Music accompaniment by Kammerchor Manila

February 16, 2003 - Sunday (Social Hall)

10:00 a.m.
Exhibit Opens featuring Garden Wedding Setup by Caterers

2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Bridal Styling by Celebrity Beauty Stylist Bambbi Fuentes.

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
String Ensemble and Raffles

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Cocktails and Music

7:00 p.m.
Bridal Fashion Presentation by Select Fashion designers
Music accompaniment by Kammerchor Manila

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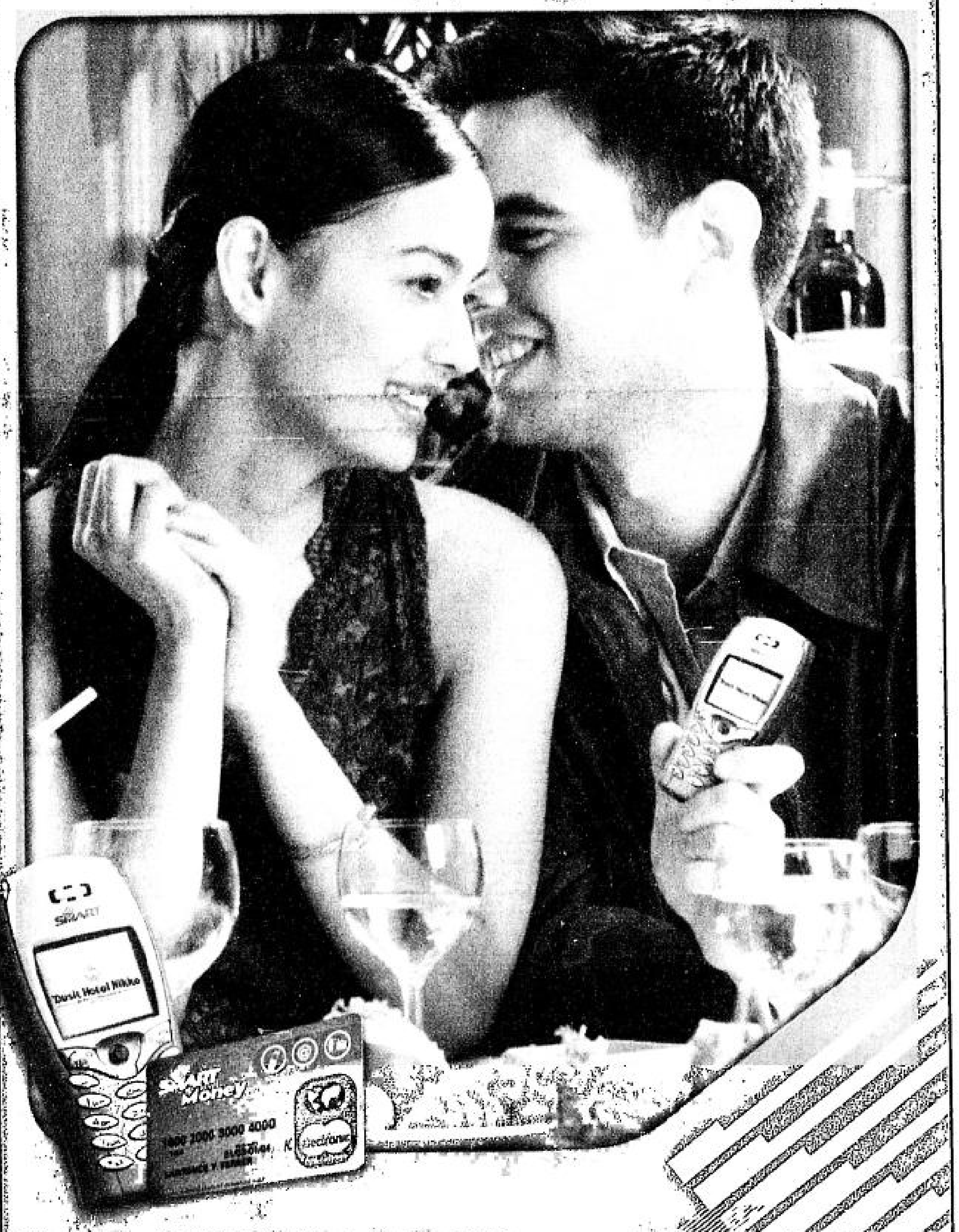

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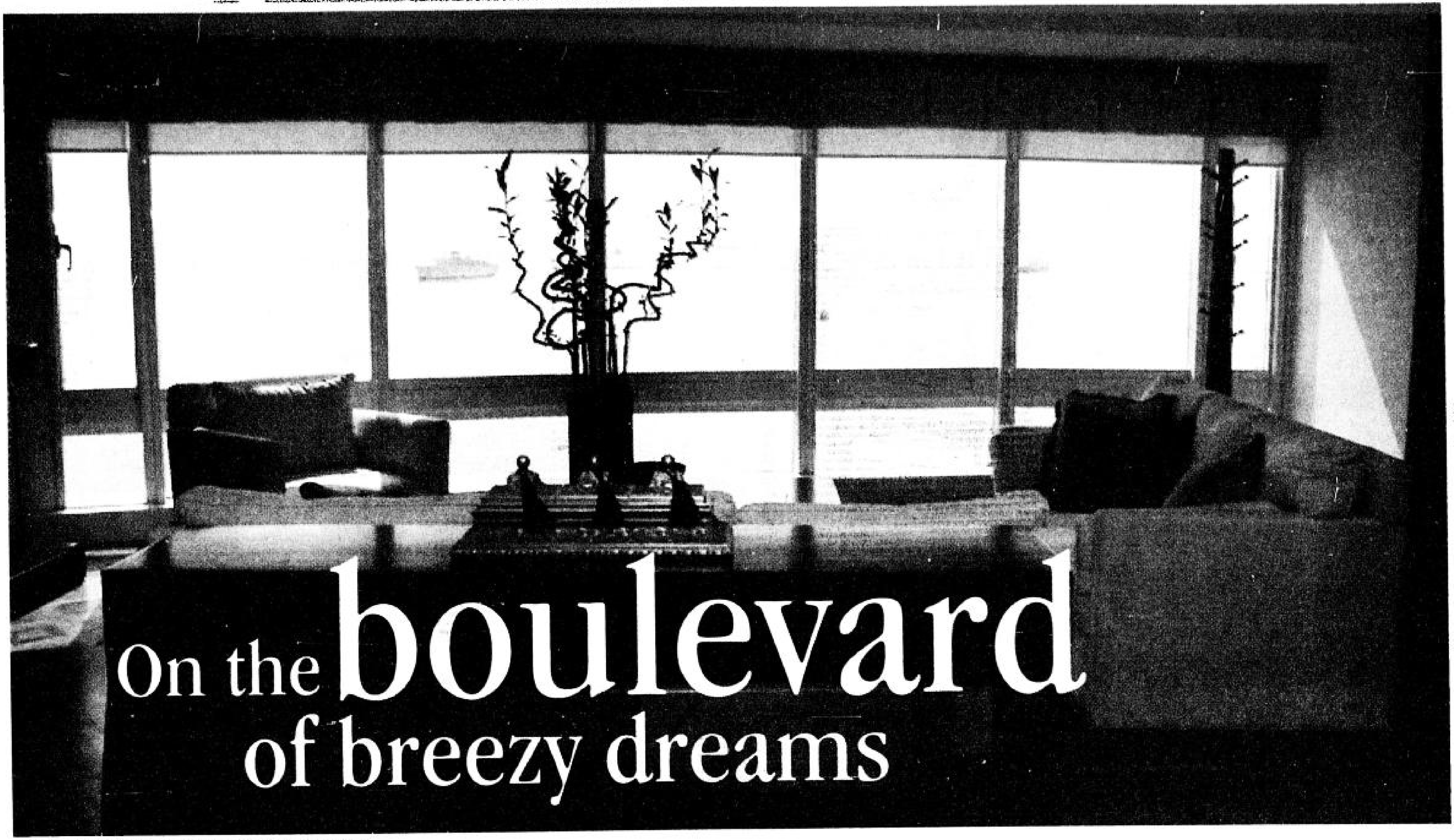
On the boulevard of breezy dreams



A LIVING room with an awesome view of Manila Bay

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Betoy Johnson

IN ORDER to come up with a classy dwelling with a universal appeal, interior designer Marissa Oreta had to address several factors when she began working on 1322 Roxas Boulevard's premium unit.

Located at the corner of Roxas Boulevard and Padre Faura Street, the 57-story residential building is said to be the tallest of its kind in the Philippines.

Project developer Moldex Land Inc. will launch the model unit tomorrow, a four-bedroom affair on the 14th floor, months before the condominium's planned completion.

"Every unit will have a view of the Manila Bay," says Clothilda Ann Roman, AVP of Moldex Realty Marketing Inc. "That's decidedly one of the property's selling points."

Oreta, design principal of Oreta Design Consultant, describes the unit's look as "sophisticated simplicity." Coming up with the right mix, however, is never simple especially if one has to cater to the varying preferences of 1322's high-end market.

Tasteful and appealing

"The challenge was to create something tasteful and appealing to a wide range of people," she says. "Of course, the entire look was also partially influenced by Mr. [Jacinto] Uy's taste."

The chair of Moldex Group of Companies is said to be partial to simple yet elegant lines.

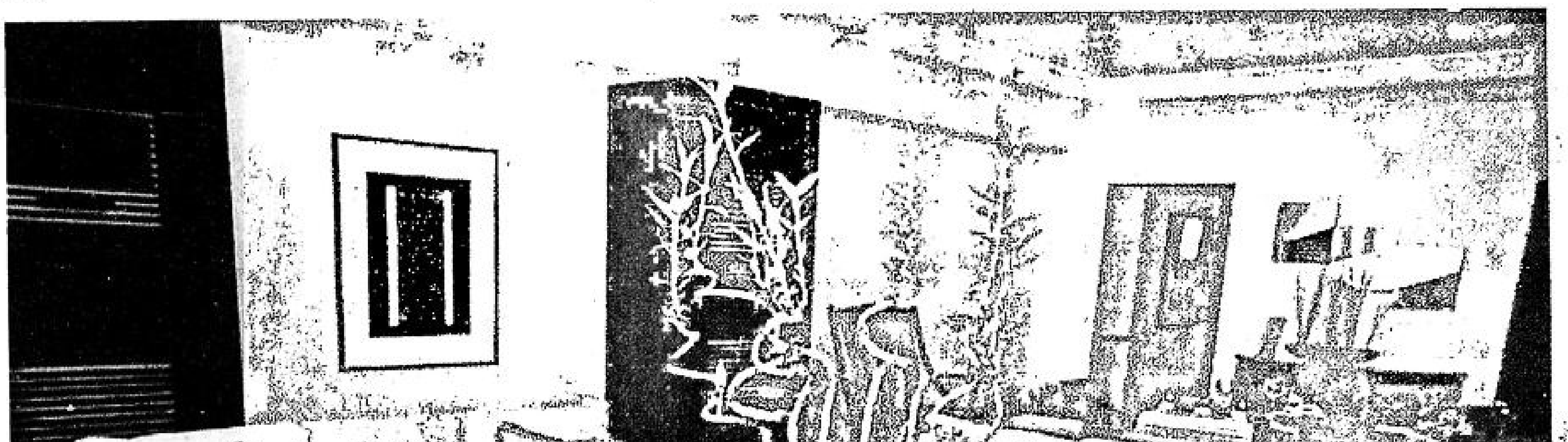
Oreta, thus, did away with gender-specific pieces in favor of more neutral items primarily in soft earth tones. She also set aside floral patterns and stuck to stripes, geometric and subdued animal prints on side drapes, chairs, area rugs and throw pillows.

"An area rug is useful in defining space," she says, pointing to a taupe carpet bordered with black patterns in the living room. The one in the master bedroom, also in taupe, is accented with animal prints.

A cabinet behind the sofa also distinguishes the living room from the dining area.

Oreta's use of diamond patterns on the living room sofa, backrest of chairs and several cabinet tops echoes architect Gabriel Formoso's fondness for diamond shapes as seen on the unit's dark parquet tiles and doors.

Oreta went as far as using a lavender bed skirt in the guest room, which she matched with a chair's upholstery. Unlike blue or pink, lavender, she insists, is a neutral color.



1322 ROXAS Boulevard's premium model unit features a spacious living room. Interior designer Marissa Oreta defines the space with an area rug in taupe that echoes the sofa and throw pillows' muted earth tones.

Manila Bay

living gets

a new high

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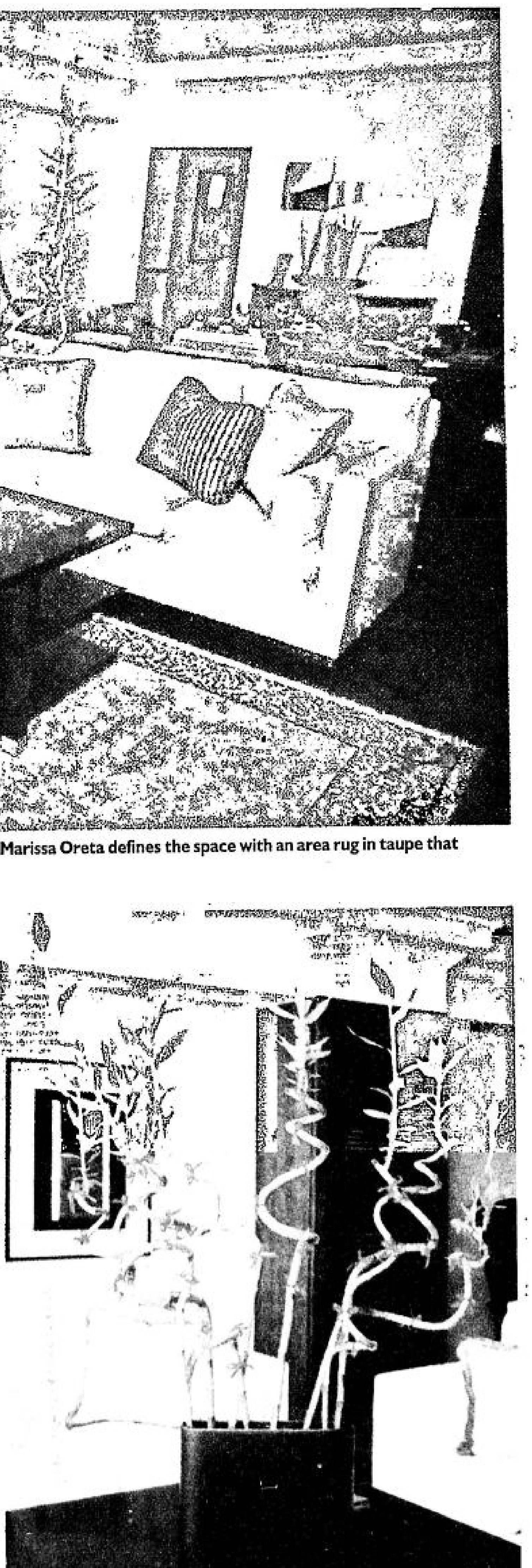


FORTUNE plants are accented with tiny red ribbons and gold ingots for good luck.

ORETA'S table setting combines ornamental pineapples with placemats made of gold damask. The chairs' backrest echoes the floor's diamond parquet pattern.

Gender-specific pieces have no place in this model unit, where neutral items, primarily in soft earth tones, rule

She also combined contrasting shades and textures for added impact. The same bed room, for instance, features a set of dark throw pillows wrapped in rich brocade patterns on top of a queen-sized bed covered with a smooth beige duvet.

Oreta also had to consider the sensibilities of 1322's potential clientele composed mainly of expatriates and rich Chinese-Filipinos. She wisely steered clear of stereotypical Chinese kitsch without totally robbing the place of its Chinoy flavor.

Thus, we see several "lucky" plants such as ornamental pineapples, potted bromeliads, horsehair bamboo and fortune plants displayed in public areas. The fortune plants, in particular, are spruced up with tiny red ribbons and gold ingots.

Other Chinese-animated touches are reflected in several pairs of Chinese-inspired lamps in the living room and master bedroom and a series of small, tilted mirrors above the buffet cabinet in the living room.

Abstract panache

Abstracts in acrylic by Lo Franco and Nuestro add a dash of panache to the entire setup. Oreta personally chose the art pieces for their muted colors and their ability to blend with almost any furniture and accent pieces in the unit.

Every room features a coffee-table book either on art or interior design.

"I've chosen books over candles and other home accessories," says Oreta. "It's an ideal way of educating the buyer."

Each bedroom, by the way, comes with its own bathroom, one of which offers a partial view of Manila Bay.

But the best seats in the house are reserved in the living room where a series of picture windows provides a sweeping vista of the bay and its world-famous sunset.

The maids' quarters also has its own bathroom and service entrance via the kitchen. Another door in the kitchen leads to the living room. In case the owners go on an extended vacation, they can lock that door from the living room and limit the household help's movement within the kitchen and service areas.

In lieu of curtains, Oreta chose roller shades in beige to keep the glare out without obstructing the daylight.

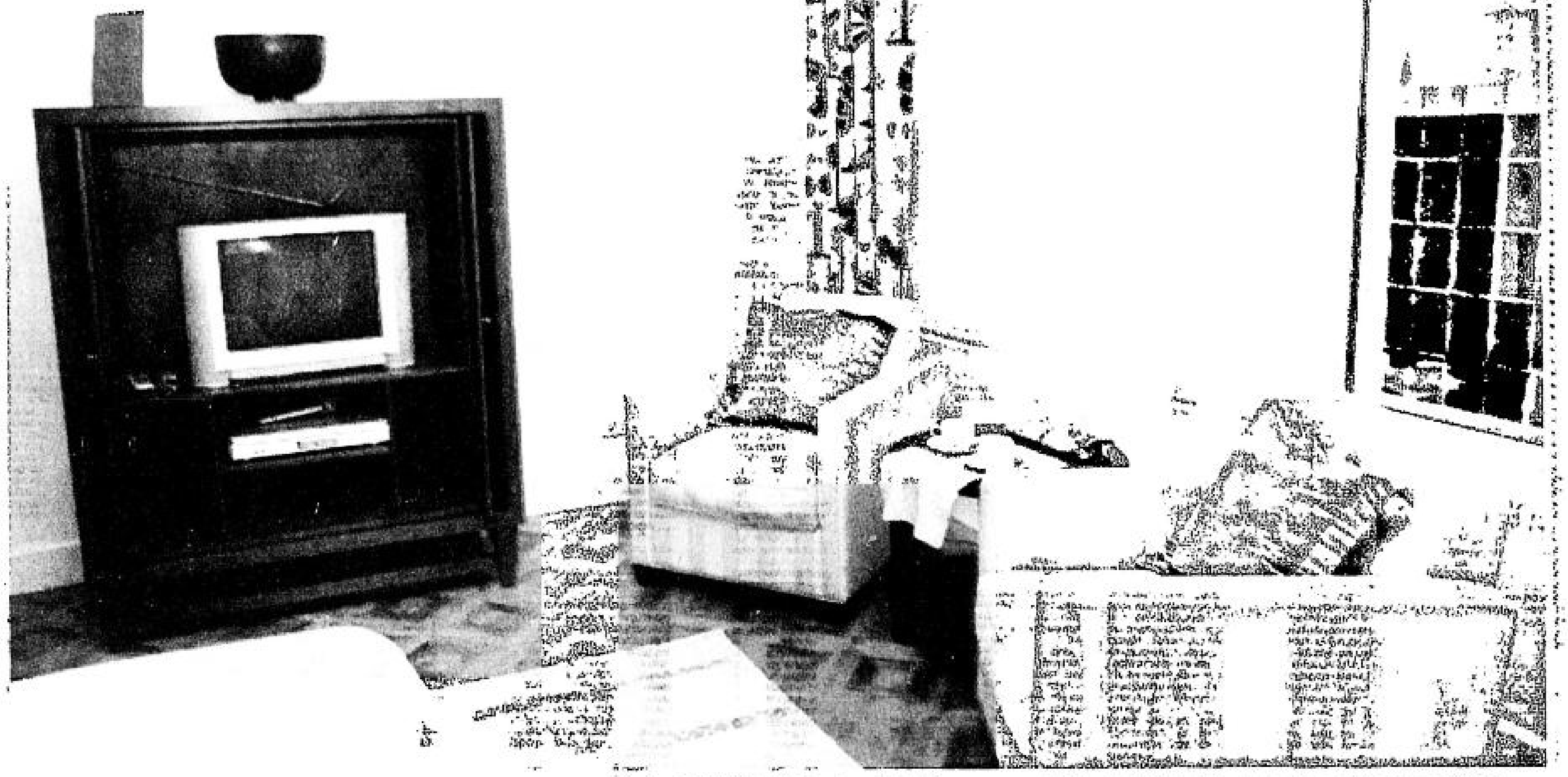
Indeed, it would have been unthinkable not to maximize the awesome view. Even with the shades pulled down, one can still make out the silhouettes of ships anchored in the bay.

"That's another reason I chose furniture fabrics in muted shades," she adds. "It won't be too obvious even if the colors fade with time."

Designing a unit by the bay also presented other challenges. Oreta, for instance, steered clear of brass and wrought iron in favor of stainless steel, the only material that can withstand the salty air's corrosive effects. Otherwise, condo living by the bay can be a breeze.

For inquiries, call Moldex Realty Marketing Inc. at 522-7777 or 536-0082

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

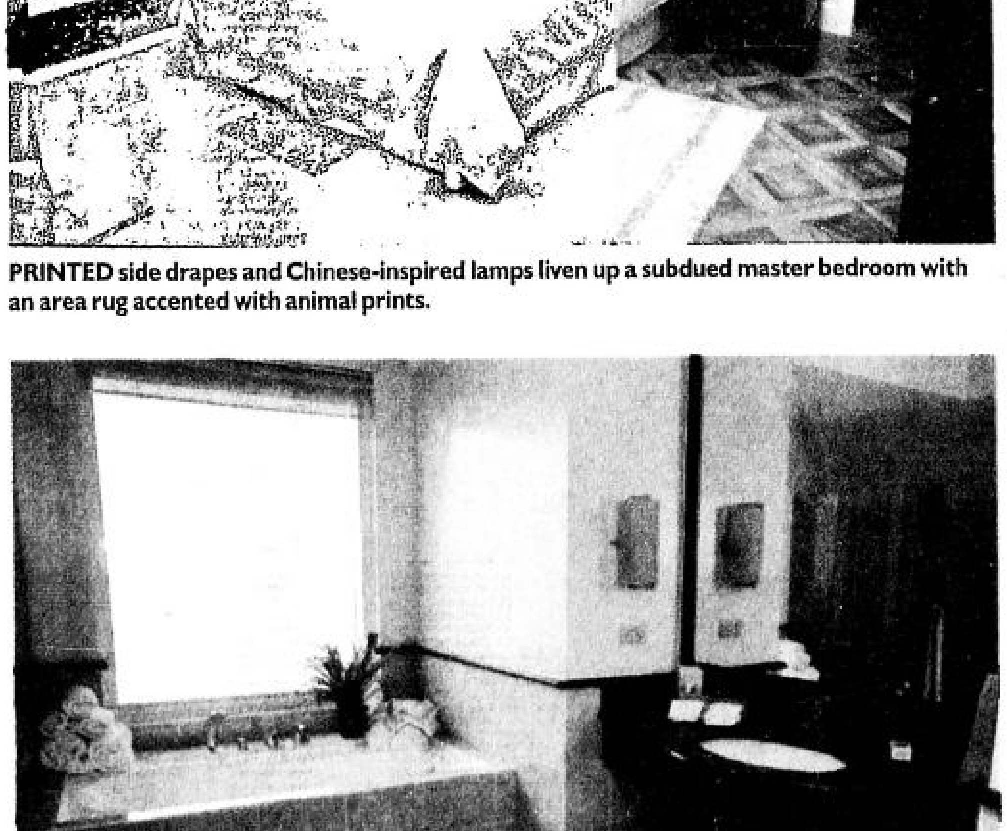


CHAIRS with horizontal stripes are neutral and designed to appeal to a wide range of the property's clients.

BROCADE patterns make for a luxurious look

A LAVENDER bed skirt and dark throw pillows deviate from the guest room's color scheme.

PRINTED side drapes and Chinese-inspired lamps liven up a subdued master bedroom with an area rug accented with animal prints.



THE MAIN bathroom with a view of the bay

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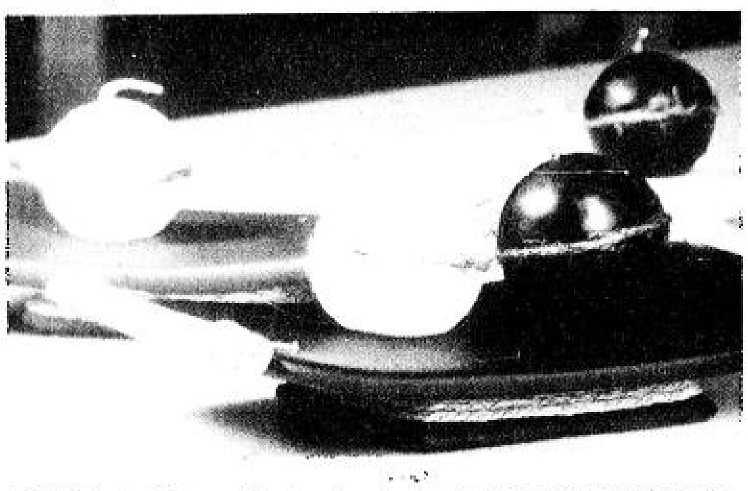


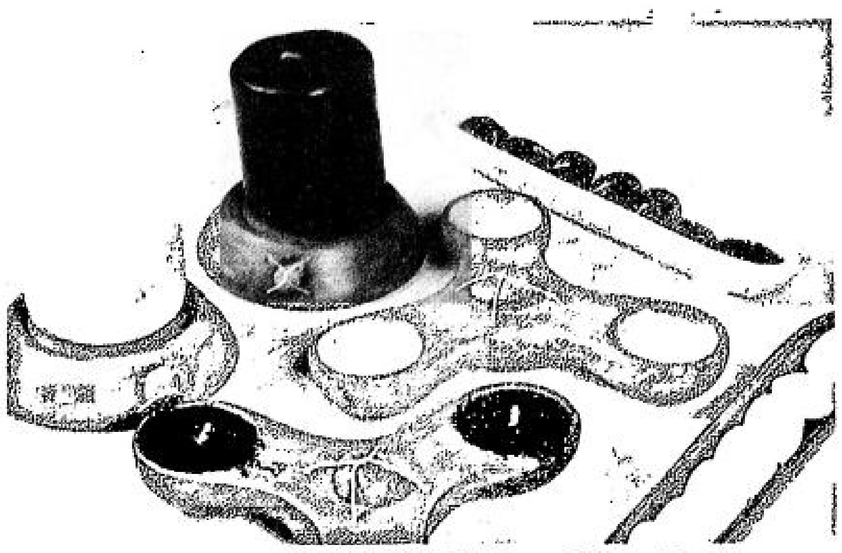
BLACK and white are the dominant colors in Design Options' latest collection

INTERIOR Design Options, located in New Manila, showcases pieces that are perfect for your home.

In its latest collection, deep black is a dominant shade, followed by white and splashes of vibrant colors. There are Japanese-inspired ceramic candleholders in matte black and silver details; and black candle-and-incense holders set in turquoise and blue undertones. Very classy and very Zen. Tea light holders in black and silver metals are functional and give an industrial feel.

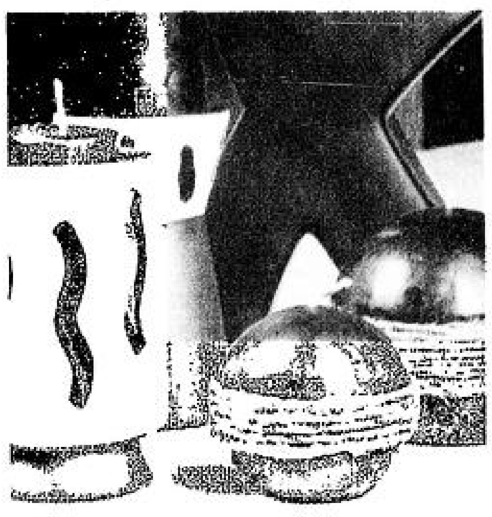
For the spare, minimalist home, there is a set of graduated vases in shades of deep blue and green with graphic designs. Colored bottles get a much-needed twist when they are covered in swirls of transparent straw. And while the alligator is the much obsessed-about skin of the fashion season, the shop has a set of candle, candy and napkin holders that mimic its texture in black and red ceramics.

Interior Design Options is located at 79 Doña Hemady St., New Manila, QC. Call 722-7380/6901.



CANDLE holders of different shapes

A SET of graduated vases with graphic designs



ASIDE from candle holders, Design Options also has candy and napkin holders

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Per DTI-NCR permit no, A2-038 series of 2003

New TV technology enhances image quality

TODAY'S world is quickly moving towards the digital age, from the way we do business and even to the way we watch TV. Indeed, TV viewing is ready to reach new heights, when TV signals can be sent with lightning speed that totally enhances the quality of images on the screen.

With the advent of the digital era, Philips introduces the new Matchline 34PT8420 television, which can provide all the usual entertainment of TV today yet incorporates technology that can let you enjoy the benefits of tomorrow's digital broadcast.

The new Philips Matchline 34PT8420 is HDTV-ready. HDTV stands for High Definition Television, a new technology that guarantees the highest elements in digital picture resolution. This makes the 34PT8420 a future-proof TV when digital broadcasts finally reach wide-market status.

Complementing this feature is the Progressive Scan technology, which provides sharper pictures, with no blurred visuals or flicker. This is because the Progressive Scan technology can process the image lines faster than ordinary TVs, resulting in a much smoother, more film-like structure. With this feature, pictures look more solid and stable, allowing your eyes to relax as you relax in front of the TV.

Picture resolution is further enhanced with the Crystal Clear feature that includes the Dynamic Contrast and Digital Comb Filter functions. This feature provides for better separation of brightness and color signals to eliminate cross-luminance and distortion.

Enjoy two great programs at the same time, as the Matchline 34PT8420's Full Double Screen allows for viewing of two channels simultaneously. And complementing the awesome picture is the great sound, courtesy of the Matchline 34PT8420's Virtual Dolby Surround. The enhanced surround sound effect is created with just two front speakers.

The new Philips Matchline 34PT8420 will surely provide you with the best and brightest pictures today and in the years to come.

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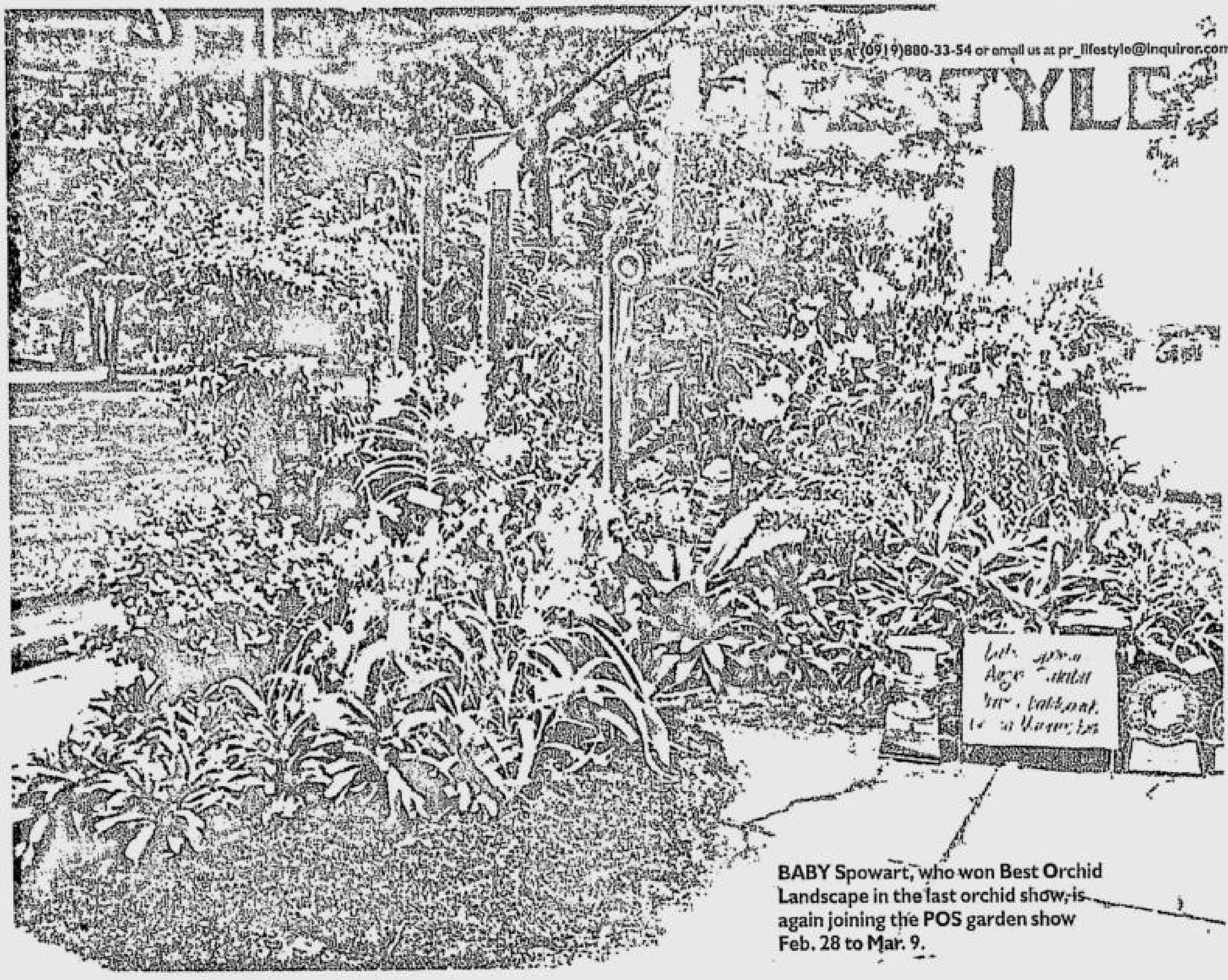

BABY Spowart, who won Best Orchid Landscape in the last orchid show, is again joining the POS garden show Feb. 28 to Mar. 9.

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It's going to be a busy garden season

By Tita V. Giron

THERE'S a lot of exciting activities in the calendar of garden folks these coming days. The Horticulture 2003 at the Manila Seedling Bank, which had a record-breaking attendance, was immediately followed by several shows.

Ongoing are:

Feb. 6-23: Eleventh annual garden show of the Las Piñas Garden Club at the Philam Village Park

Feb. 13-23: Ayala Alabang Village Garden Club exhibit at Narra Park, Narra St., Ayala-Alabang Village

Many more can be expected.

Feb. 14-16: Lecture and demonstration on mini waterfallscaping by Serapion Metilla at Metts Garden Arts School, King Louis Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank

Feb. 27-March 2: Seventh Asia-Pacific Bonsai and Suiseki Exhibition and Convention at SM Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City

Feb. 28-March 9: 57th Annual Orchid and Garden Show of the Philippine Orchid Society at the Peace Bell and restaurant complex of Quezon Memorial Circle, Quezon City

March 1-2: Ikenobo-Ikebana International (Manila Chapter) exhibit at the 2/L, Grand Atrium, Shangri-La Plaza Mall-Edsa

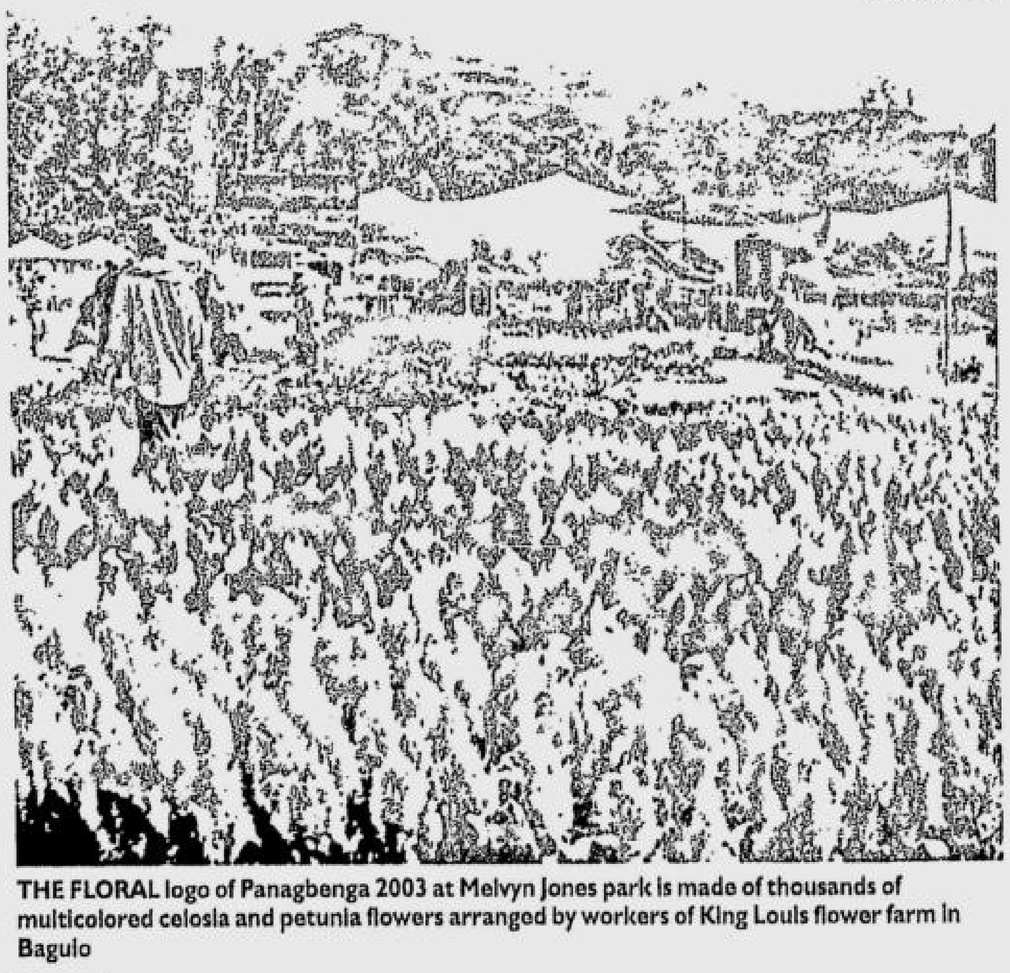
> You can count on trendy garden plants being made available in the upcoming shows

March 14-23: Makiling Garden Show of Los Baños Orchid Society at the Senior Social Hall of the University of the Philippines Los Baños

If the big turnout of gardeners and sellers at the Horticulture Show 2003 of the Philippine Horticulture Society is any indication, the upcoming garden shows will be quite exciting. You can count on trendy garden plants to be made available at the commercial section. The new garden plants were such a hit at the market section that even before the 'horti' show ended, they were already sold out.

All the garden traders, plus more, who participated at the show will also be at the Philippine Orchid Show (POS) at the Quezon Memorial Circle beginning Feb. 28. With "Orchid Romance" as theme, expect the show's landscape competition to feature romantic designs.

IT'S GOING/ 14



THE FLORAL logo of Panagbenga 2003 at Melvyn Jones park is made of thousands of multicolored celosia and petunia flowers arranged by workers of King Louis flower farm in Baguio

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Fourth-level gardens; weeds we need

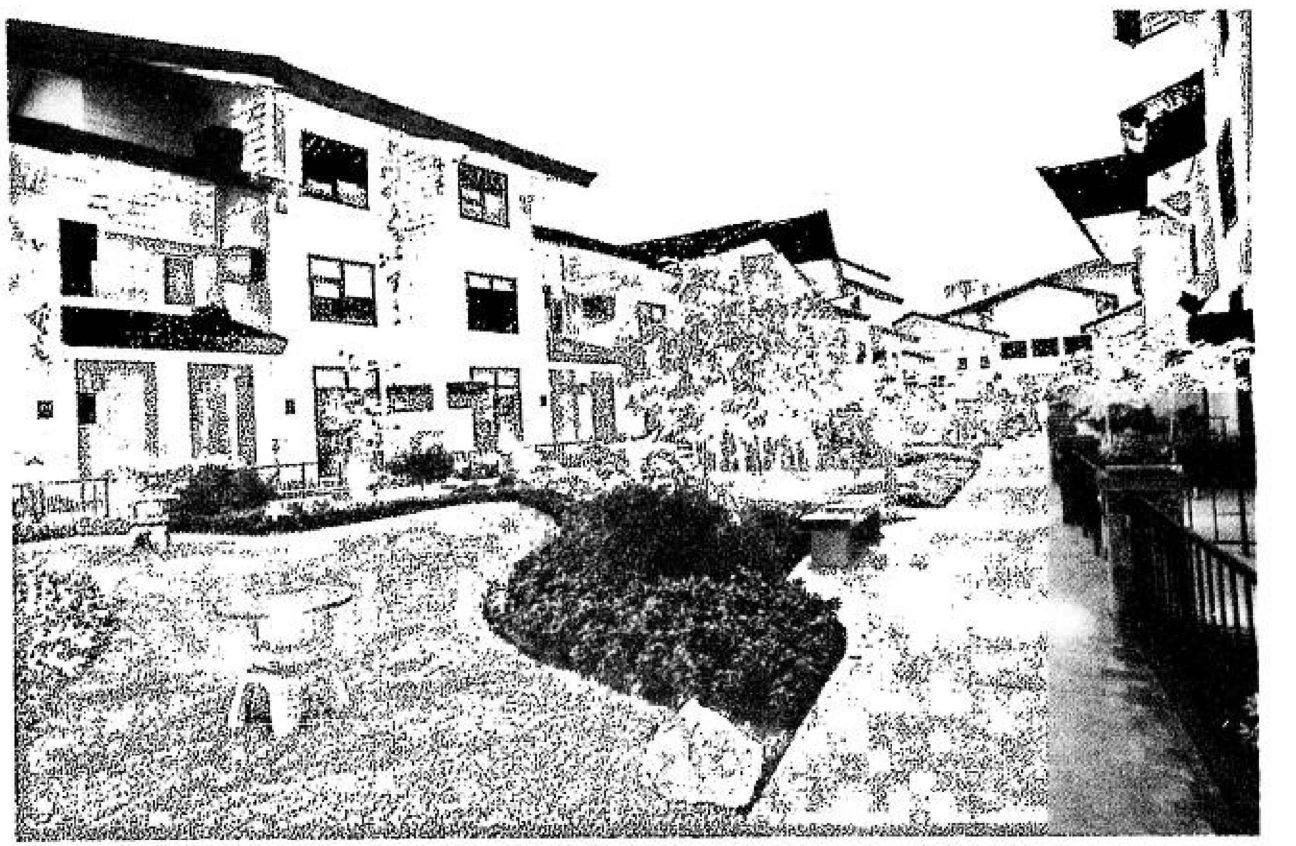
SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

SOME time ago, we wrote about the gardens the Japanese were building on top of their roofs. They were doing this for environmental reasons, but mainly to beat the heat.

In Makati, a similar idea has literally sprung up. Atop a building, four stories above ground level (the three lower levels are occupied by car parks, the lowermost by restaurants), is a residential area, aptly called The Residences. It is a cluster of 28 private houses, each independent of the other, each facing a common garden. This residential compound is plumb in the middle of Greenbelt, a busy, traffic-prone shopping, dining and entertainment area. The view from its level is awesome, taking in the surrounding landscape and skyscape in one panoramic sweep.

One gets to this aerie in Greenbelt 2 via a private elevator and on alighting, one feels he has not gone anywhere above the first floor. As a matter of fact, this residential cluster has the look of an estate development in Cavite or Laguna, more compact perhaps, but as lush with greenery as any of them.



A 600-SQ-M Zen-inspired central garden fronts each house at The Residences, Greenbelt.

The paths leading to each of the 28 doors is paved and surrounds a well-tended lawn, green with a variety of border plants, tall shrubs and bamboos, growing not in pots but right on the ground.

It is a Zen-type garden with a trickling fountain at one end and here and there, sandy portions, benches and stone lamps for meditation even at night (it is especially serene then).

All the units, which are either two or three stories high, have balconies, usually in the dining area with plants growing, as in the garden, on soil right on the ground.

How does a resident attend to all that greenery if he is no gardener, or he has no time?

No problem, says Natalie Go McCarthy, in charge of Ayala Land's residential leasing office. There are maintenance people to do the job and structural provisions in the building so the gardener can reach the balcony gardens without having to enter the house.

Even the most skeptical of environmentalists would not be able to deny that here, in the heart of an urban commercial center, it is possible to live with nature.

Ayala Land started this commitment to greenness with the landscaping of the new Greenbelt Park, but it has gone a step further by constructing residential houses several stories high that enjoy fresh breezes, no air pollution and facilities for comfortable, convenient living.

Now, if only the less affluent among us can have access to such environmental amenities, we will be that much better off in this country, won't we?

Our focus has been on the environmental aspects of The Residences, so we did not touch on the other features of the place which are many and should interest those who prefer to live near the business district and still come home in a few minutes, minus traffic, to a cozy domicile. Those other features including the lease and such details may be referred to Natalie McCarthy.

Garden of weeds

With the variety of plants and flowers available today, garden enthusiasts can have all kinds of gardens. Chances are, however, they will choose the conventional types, with manicured lawns, ornamental flowers like rare orchids, and other floral fads of the season.

To Nonie Dolera, Carmen Florento, Maur Lichauco and Flor Tarriela, all members of the Fern and Nature Society of the Philippines, gardeners should also grow weeds. For them, this is no joke for the Fern Society encourages not only the propagation of ferns, but also those ignored, underrated wild plants referred to as weeds.

And so, they call attention to their advocacy, by pleading, "Oops... Don't Throw Those Weeds Away," which is the title of their just-launched book, subtitled "Walang Pilipinong Dapat Magutom (No Filipino Should Go Hungry)."

The book provides many reasons for not throwing weeds away or, for that matter, flowers or leaves of ordinary plants. From researches, the authors have learned what old folk in the rural areas have known for years, that these ignored plants have a variety of uses—as medicine, as building material and as food.

The folk wisdom of old, unfortunately, has gone with the dust and smog of the city, and urbanites are no longer aware that forests, open fields and backyards are often, treasure troves of little-known natural resources, and thus order those "lowly" growing things there weeded out.

Those who have followed the traditions of their forebears would still know, however, that the guava, *kamias, tsaang gubat* and *balimbing* have value as food as well as curative purposes. But there are many other plants out there that may not be known to be good for anything, like the *makahiya* (bashful mimosa), the *boto-botonisan, takip-buhol, pancit-pancitan, olasiman* (purslane) and *sampa-sampalukan* but these have proven to be good stock for nature's drugstore. And then there is *lupo-lupo, yampong* (morning glory), *borbotak, talinum,* wild *pipino,* to name a few, as unfamiliar as their names, and a variety of ferns that make nutritious additions to green salads.

Indeed, there is no reason, say the authors, Filipinos should go hungry when they can have food practically everywhere they looked, growing wild in any soil or climatic condition. These "lowly" greens can help increase our food supply and be part of our natural resources for a multitude of uses.

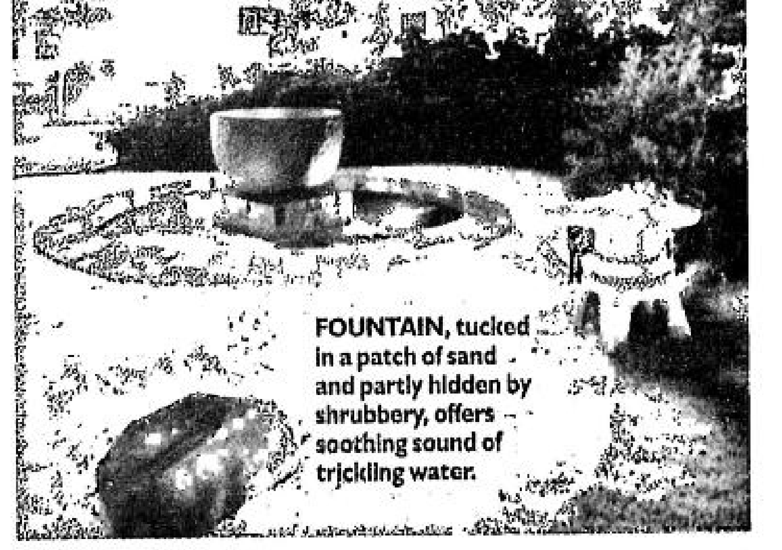
So, say the authors, don't throw them away or pull them out of their roots. Instead, cultivate them and let them bloom.

While the authors concentrate on these plants' immediate uses, we see in their save-the-weeds crusade, an extension of the crusade to save our forests, our coastlines and our seas

Part of the book is dedicated to recipes, courtesy of culinary expert Maur Lichauco, intended to introduce these edible weeds as palatable additions to family meals.

For more information on the book, inquire from the Makati Garden Club, Tel. 817-27-38.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com



FOUNTAIN, tucked in a patch of sand and partly hidden by shrubbery, offers soothing sound of trickling water.

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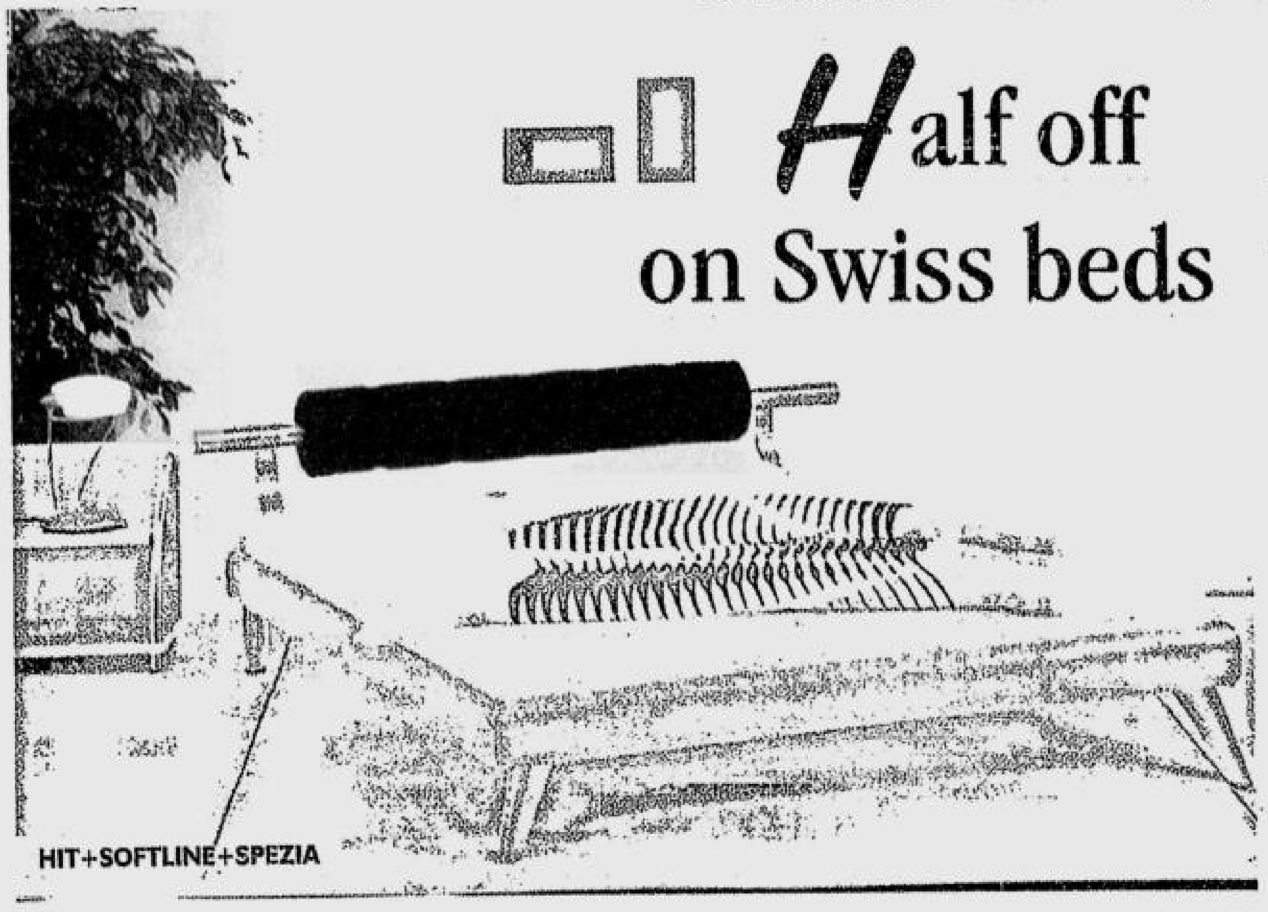
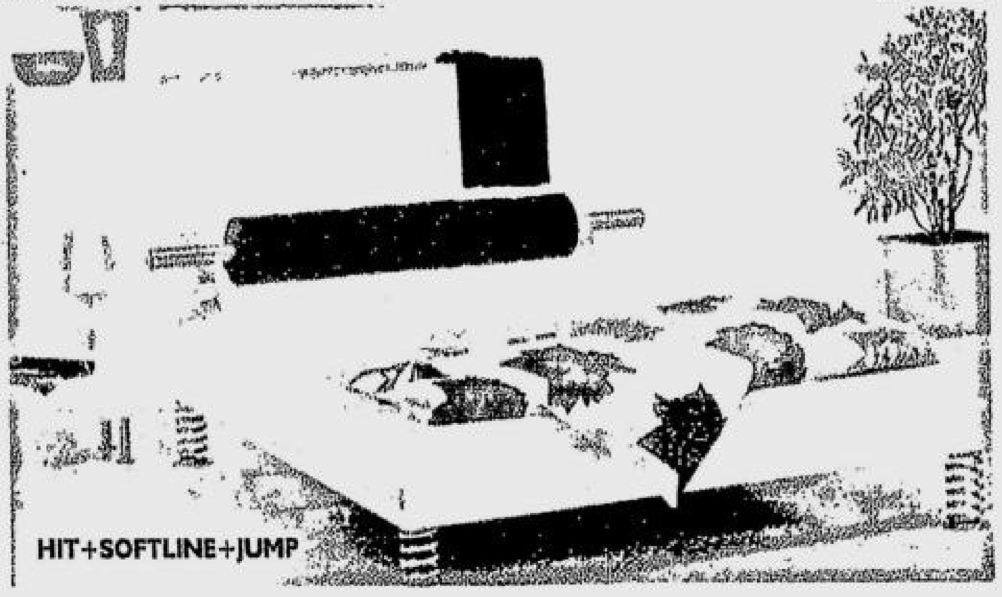
Half off on Swiss beds



HIT+SOFTLINE+SPEZIA

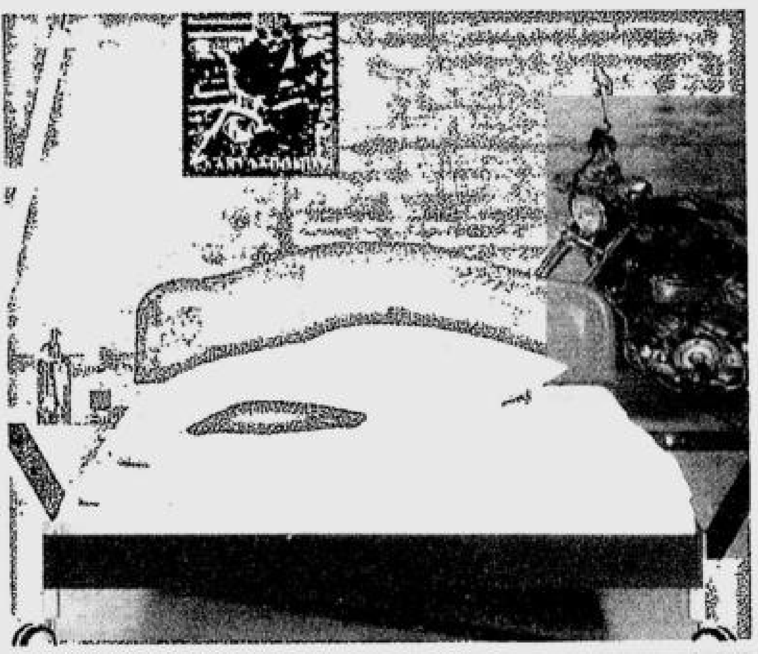


HIT+SOFTLINE+JUMP

TO CELEBRATE the season of hearts, Play & Display mounts its first Valentine Special called Love Affair with Swiss Beds offering 50-percent discounts on its Swiss Bed Line. The product collection features 72 designs. You can mix and combine your choice of headboard, bed frame and legs in subtle or bright colors.

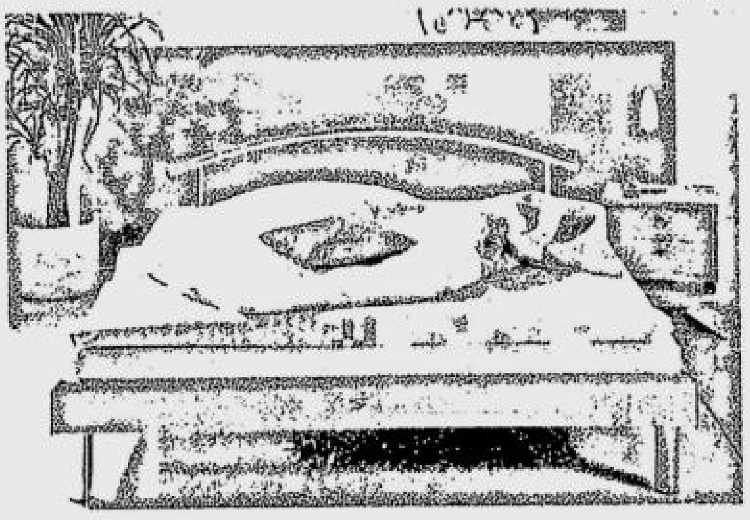
There are four types of headboards, six choices of bed frames and three selections of legs. The soft-leather headboards, which come in 12 colors, are dubbed Hit (black, light gray and Bordeaux), Kiss (red), Space (black, orange, red, light gray) and Lecco (red, black, orange, light gray). The wooden bed frame made of high-quality MDF is called Softline with six variations: black, maple, white, blue, iron-colored and chromewave. The metal legs, on the other hand, are named Spezia (chrome-colored, slant type), Jump (chrome-colored, spring type) and Mobil (alugloss/black).

Visit Play & Display stores at 6797 Ayala Avenue, Glorietta IV, Power Plant Mall, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Festival, Alabang Town Center, Megamall, SM North, SM Manila, SM Fairview, SM Pampanga and Pavilion.



KISS+SOFTLINE+MOBIL

SWISS BED



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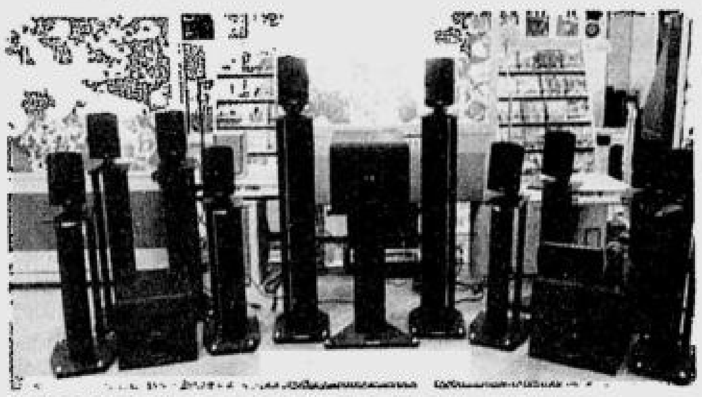

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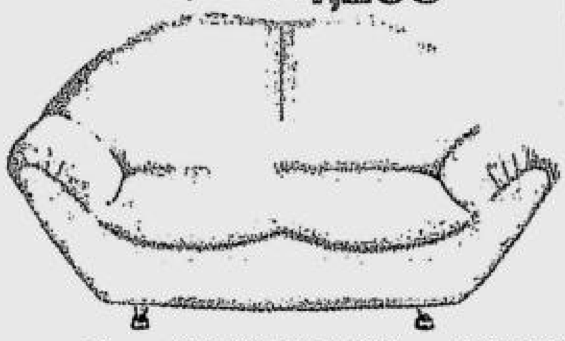

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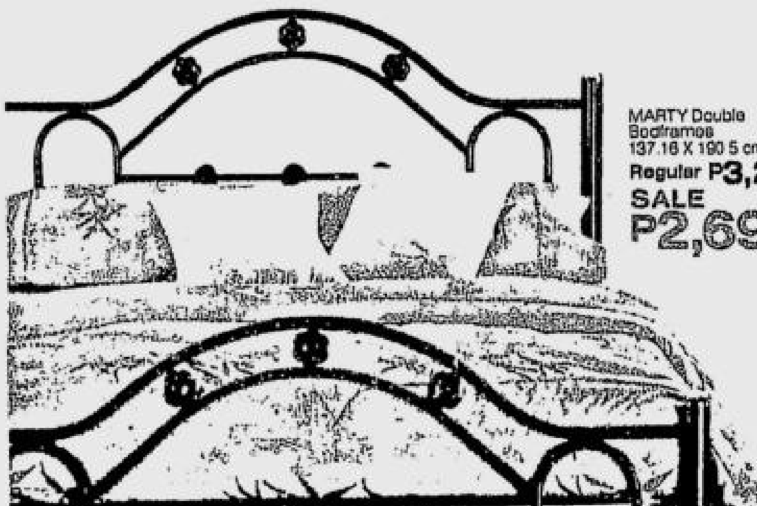
Bedframes* Specials



MARTY Double Bedframes
137.16 X 190.5 cm (54 x 75)
Regular P3,295
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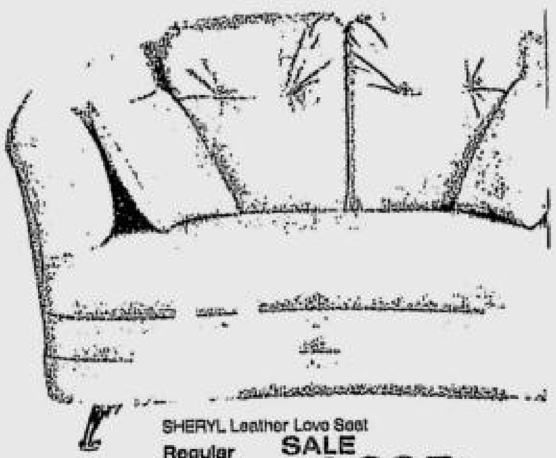

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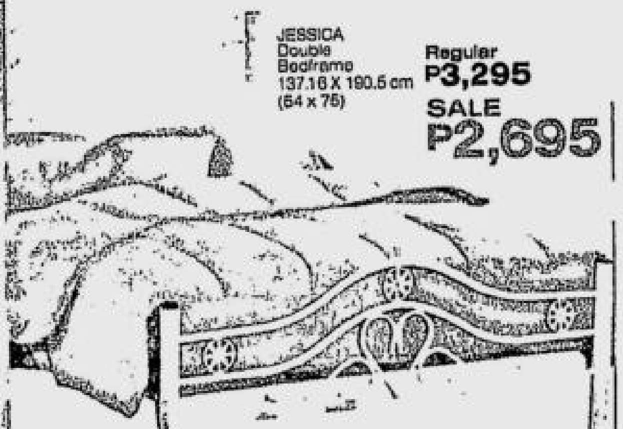

JESSICA Double Bedframe
137.16 X 190.5 cm (54 x 75)
Regular P3,295
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*Matresses and bed linen not included

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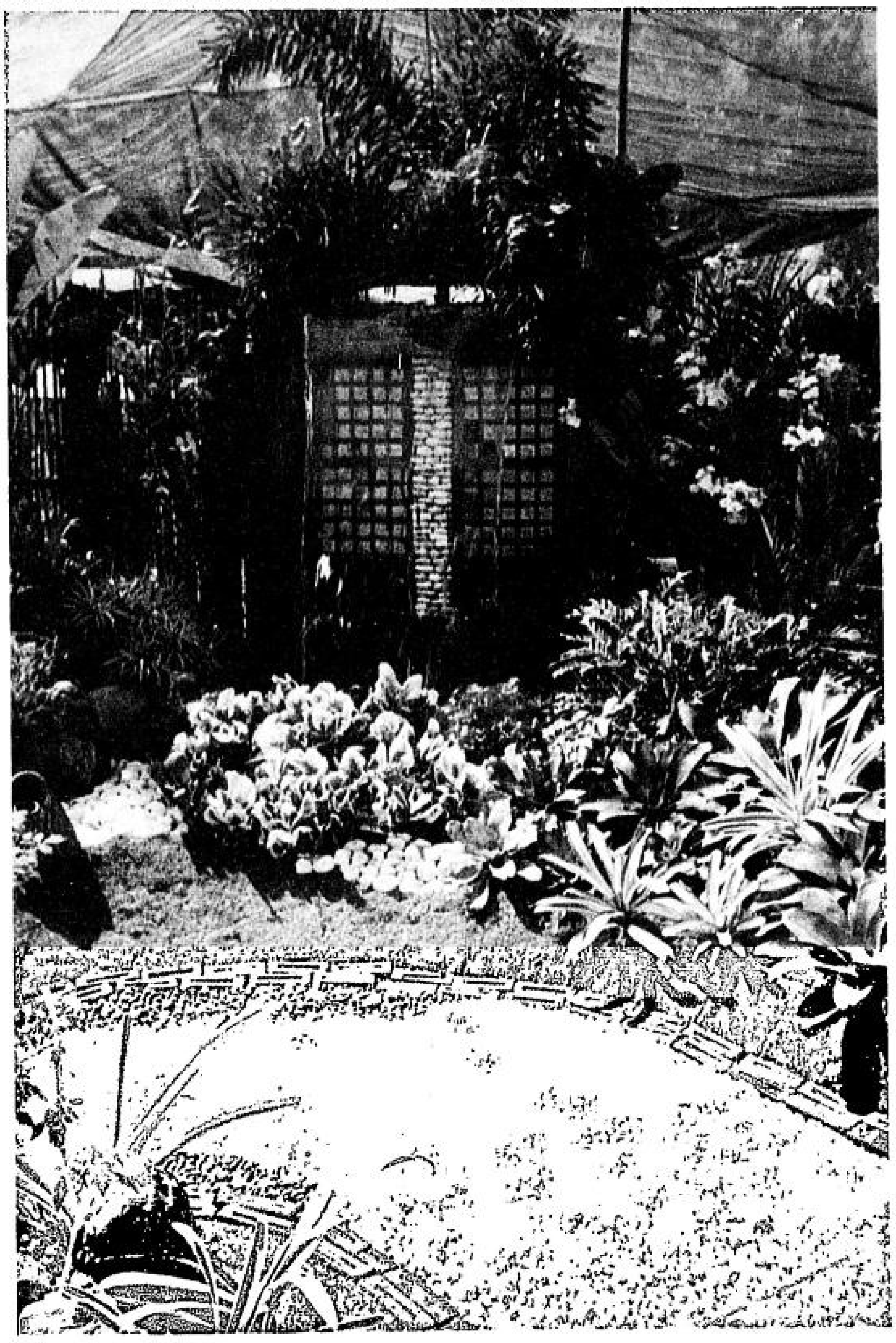
IGOROT figures at the Panagbenga 2003 landscape exhibition



TRENDY crotons and bromeliads added color to Panagbenga landscape exhibit

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THIS CREATURE IS:
A. A MUTATED PET ROCK.
B. LIKELY NOT TO HAVE HEARD OF SKIN MOISTURIZER.
C. ALWAYS COMPLAINING THAT IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN.
D. KROG. ONE OF THE CHARACTERS YOU'LL FACE WHEN YOU ENTER THE 7TH PORTAL.

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Pepsi

It's going to be a busy garden season

From page 11

By the way, the new POS president is Rex Puentespina. Show chairs are CV Lazaro and J.M. Lacandula. For more information about the orchid exhibit and schedule of lecture-demonstration, call the clubhouse at 929-4425.

Las Piñas garden show

Rep. Cynthia Villar and city officials opened the 11th annual horti show of the Las Piñas Garden Club at the Philam Village Park. With Villar as the new motivating force behind the garden club, it's not surprising that the membership has increased. Over 40 new members, in fact, were formally accepted at the dinner party that followed the opening ceremony last Feb. 6. The party was held at the clubhouse of the garden club.

The members get the full support of local politicians in exchange for their help in greening projects. Club president Edgar Martin Littaua said Senator Manny Villar and Las Piñas Mayor Vergel Aguilar donated prizes for the show competition. For more information about the daily lectures and directions on how to get to the show ground, call Julie Aldaba at 875-1889.

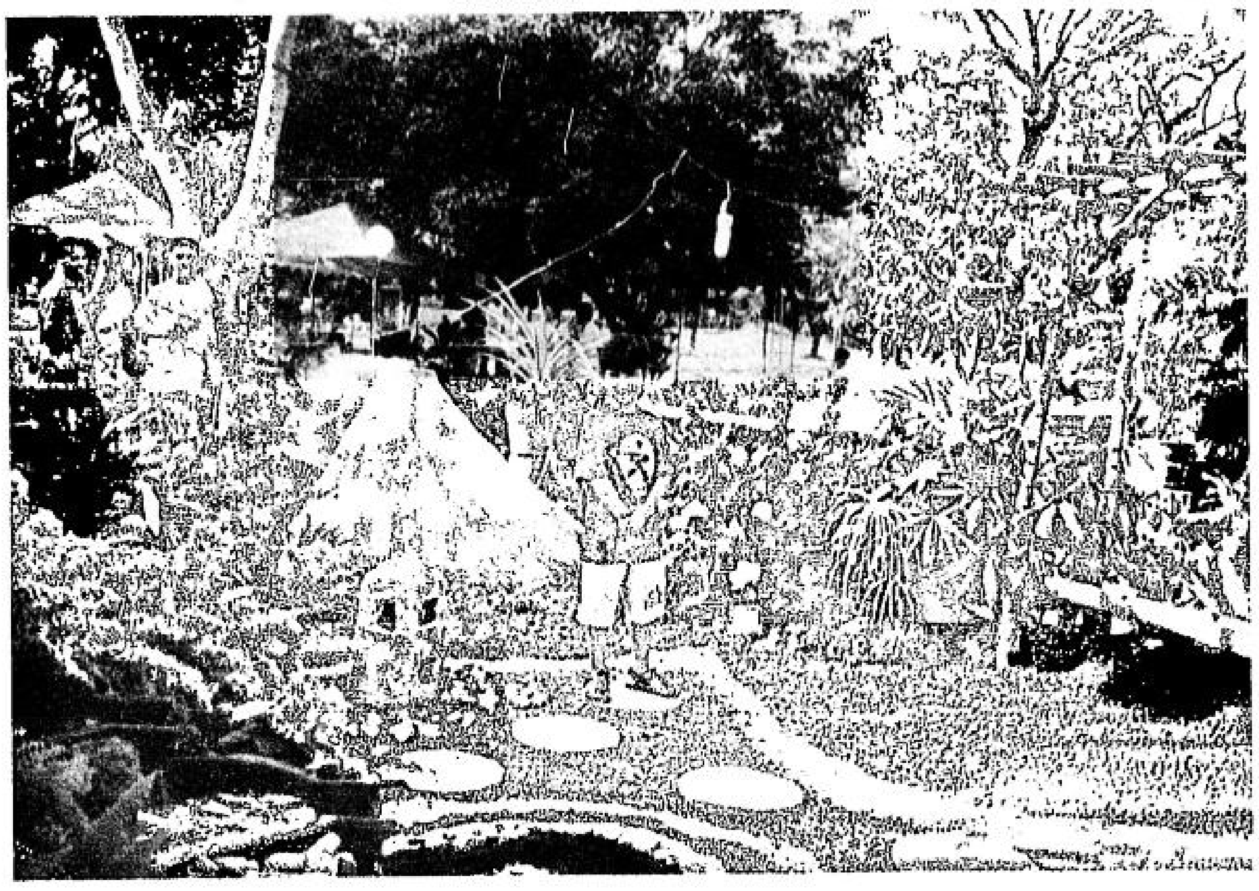
Panagbenga 2003

The month-long Baguio flower festival, Panagbenga, opened Feb. 1 with a land-

IT'S GOING/15

Las Piñas Garden Club members help greening projects

MASAHIRO Kimura of Japan is one of the foreign bonsai masters who will give a lecture-demonstration at the 7th Asia-Pacific Bonsai and Suiseki Convention at SM Megatrade Hall, Feb. 27 to Mar. 2



MAYON Volcano is the centerpiece of the landscape exhibit at the Las Piñas Garden Club horti show in Philam Life Village park.

FIRST prize winner in landscape design at Las Piñas garden show

It's going to be . . .

From page 14

scaping exhibit and market encounter at Melvyn Jones park, a welcome change from the previous venue at Camp John Hay.

The more exciting flower parade and street dancing will be held three weeks later. Right now, garden folks can view the exhibit and shop for garden supplies at the market encounter at the park. Also ongoing is the first barangay garden competition, which ends before the flower parade. About half of Baguio's 128 barangays are competing for the prizes, including cash awards.

Winners of the landscaping competition at the park were: Larry Hacoco, first prize (P50,000 cash); Christine Dino, second (P30,000); Malou's Plant Shop, third (P20,000). Jovita Zaparita and Jose Acosta received merit awards (P10,000 each). For more information about Panagbenga garden show activities, call Gani Liporda at (0917) 506-8141, and for details on the barangay competition, call Laurence Adube at (074) 442-7295.

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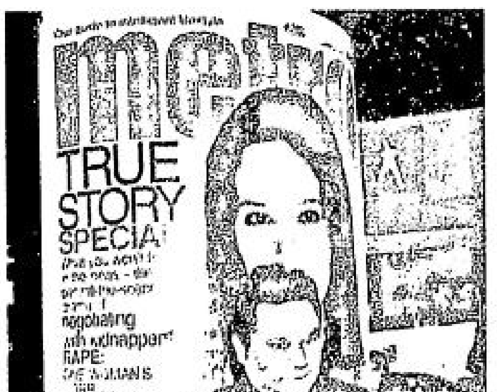
Rex Navarette takes two

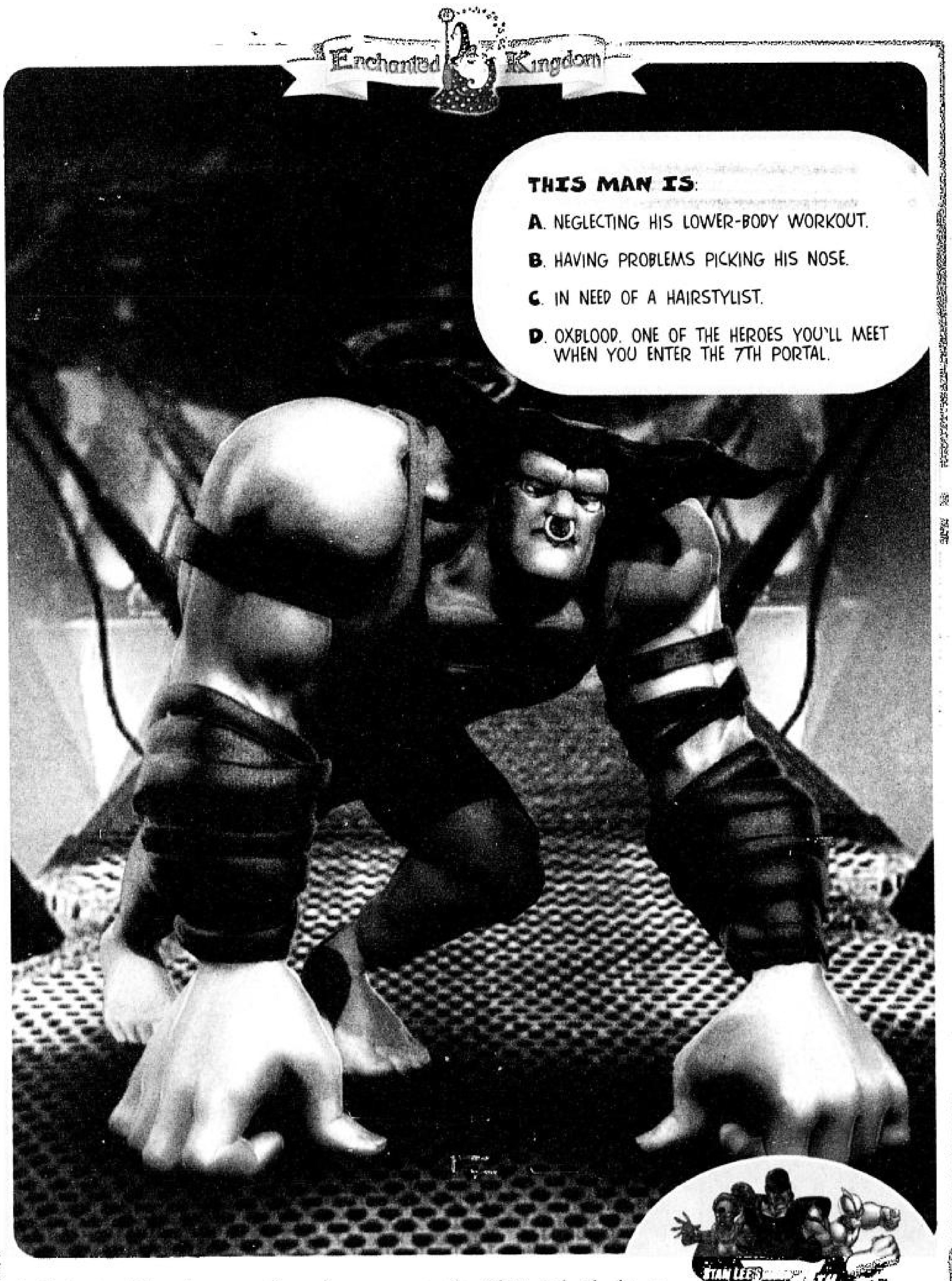
MORE of Manila's social scenesters made their way back to Rex Navarette's second comedy session by Metro magazine at Dish recently. It was another jam-packed session, as Whatsaporyou's main man created even more havoc this time. The two-night show was made possible by Metro magazine's partners: The Power Plant Mall, San Miguel Super Dry Beer, Samsung, Northwest Airlines, Joey 92.3 Rhythms and Dish.

MARITONI Fernandez and family



RAFAEL Rossel (above) and, at left, comedienne Rex Navarette

TOM and Jenni Epperson (above) and Joyce Jimenez (at right)



Enchanted Kingdom

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PEPSI

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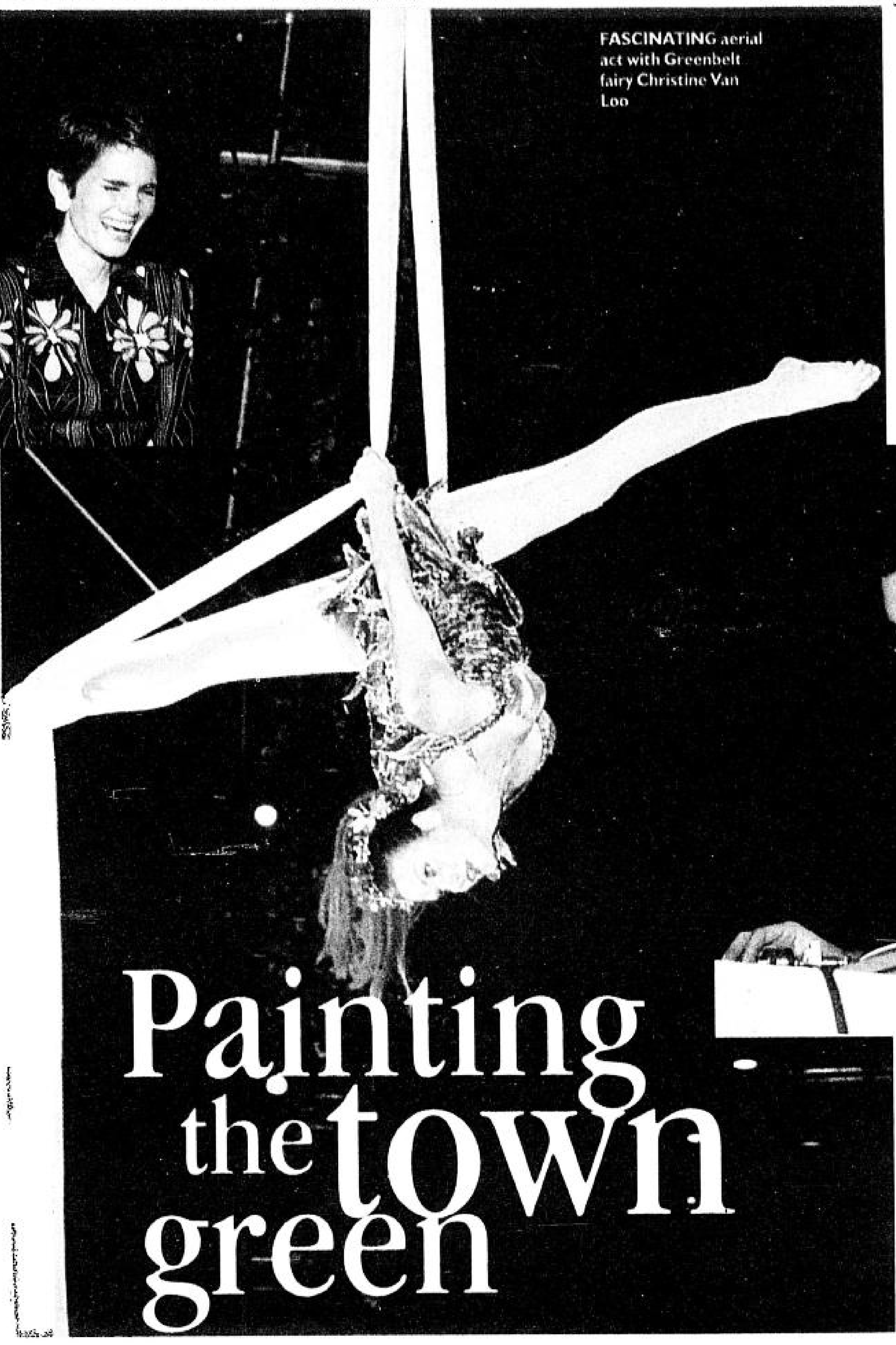
Painting the town green

Indulge in the greenest pleasures at Greenbelt

JAIME AUgusto and Lizzie Zobel


FASCINATING aerial act with Greenbelt fairy Christine Van Loo

MUSIC One's Anton Ramos

By Tim Yap

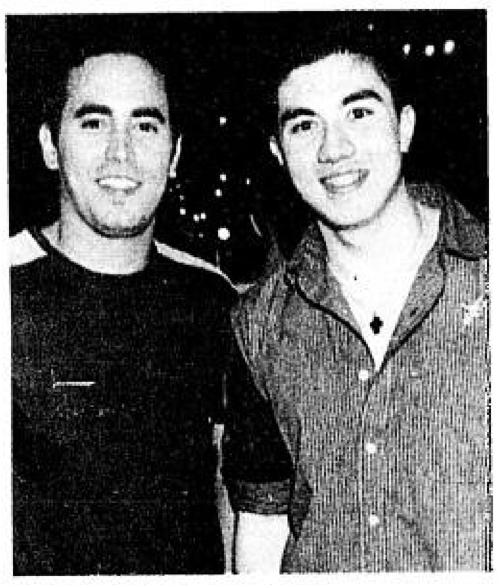
"IT'S a circus out here!" said Ayala Land muse Winnie Nazareth as Greenbelt, Ayala's flagship in urban retail and entertainment, formally opened last month.

She was not kidding about the circus part. A show of Cirque du Soleil proportions started the ball rolling. Set amid the lush greens of the Greenbelt Park, the center surrounded by the cafés, bars and restaurants was filled with guests, a mishmash of movers and shakers of different industries.

With over 200 choices for dining, entertainment and shopping that cater to a discriminating market, Greenbelt has become the center of the urban universe. Walk into Greenbelt's halls anytime of the week and you'll find yourself in a wonderland of 1,001 hip spots. And to think Greenbelt is not yet 100-percent complete. In other words, ladies and gentlemen, the best is yet to come!

Upon entry to the party, guests were met by frolicsome fairies who posted glittery stickers on the guests. They reminded you of the Kylie Minogue fairy character in "Moulin Rouge."

Inebriated by absinthe, the guests then were treated to laughs courtesy of Rex Navarette. And laugh they did!


JAKE Roxas and Luis Manzano

BERNADETTE Sembrano

COOKIE Chua

Table of treats

From there, guests headed to the buffet of treats from Greenbelt's array of specialty restos.

Guests had a field day of the cuisine—from salad to sushi to steak. It was the longest table of treats ever.

In the central area was where the action was. There, singer Jaya was holding court in a glam and glittering fuchsia gown, making the guests groove to the beat.

After a few numbers, guests gyrated and swayed their hips—a party in the park ensued!

In between songs, I managed to hop by some shops. I took a peek at Diesel's latest collection, the cool denim clothes at Celio, European finds at Prima Linea, the hot, hot pieces from Mphosis! Until now, I crave for the utilitarian bags at Carbon, the fab furniture at Firma, the cowhide carpet from PineApple, and everything at Kish!

Decisions, decisions

When I went back to the party, it was Anton Ramos who was at the DJ's throne. His was just the right music to set the tone for the night's revelry and spirit of indulgence.

Would it be crepes at Breton? Or should it be *mojito* at Havana? Should I hop over to Time Zone to see if I could still be amused?

Maybe I would just have a pizza at Segafredo, then wine at Magnum, then maybe champagne at Nuvo?

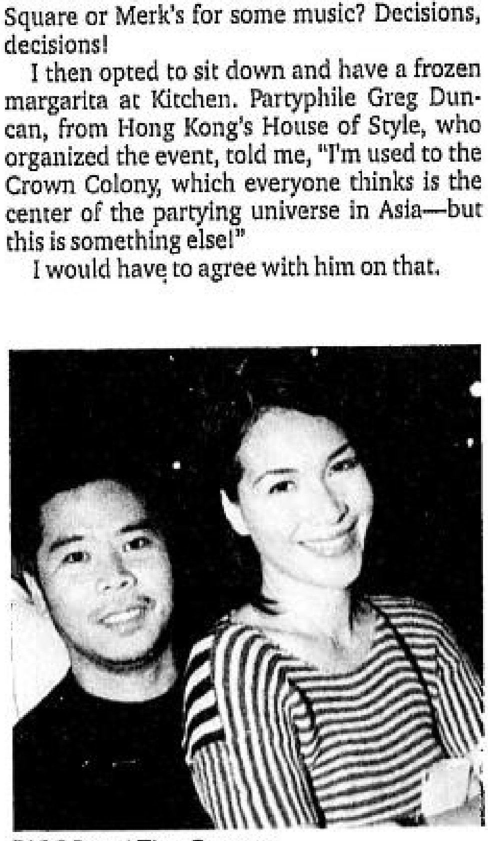
Better yet, I could have dinner and listen to Moise at Mylk, have Asian cuisine at Hue and Good Earth, then head to Tavern on the Square or Merk's for some music? Decisions, decisions!

I then opted to sit down and have a frozen margarita at Kitchen. Partyphile Greg Duncan, from Hong Kong's House of Style, who organized the event, told me, "I'm used to the Crown Colony, which everyone thinks is the center of the partying universe in Asia—but this is something else!"

I would have to agree with him on that.

KITKAT Zobel gets a fairy tattoo, the official party pass, from a Greenbelt fairy. Husband Fernando and brother-in-law Jaime Augusto look on.

FABULOUS fireworks display sets off the party.


RICCO and Tina Ocampo

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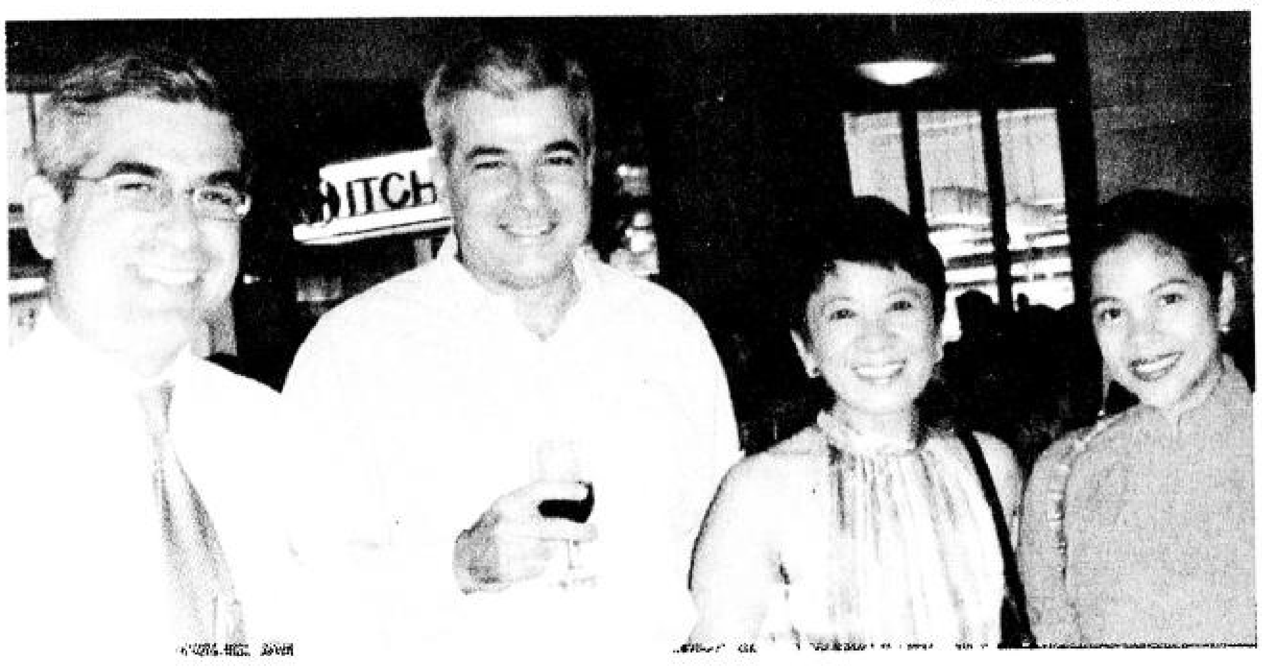


JAIME Augusto and Fernando Zobel with Miriam Katigbak and KitKat Silverio Zobel

DAVID and Marilou Batchelor and Cathy Bengzon

ZORAYDA Ruth Andam

Mall opening highlights Valentine and Year of the Goat

TEESAW

Raul Teehankee

GREENBELT 3 recently opened with a bang to welcome Valentine's Day and the Year of the Goat.

The **Zobels**, namely Don **Jaime**, **Jaime Augusto**, **Fernando** and **Sofia**, attended the official opening and welcomed special guests to the celebration by the fountains.

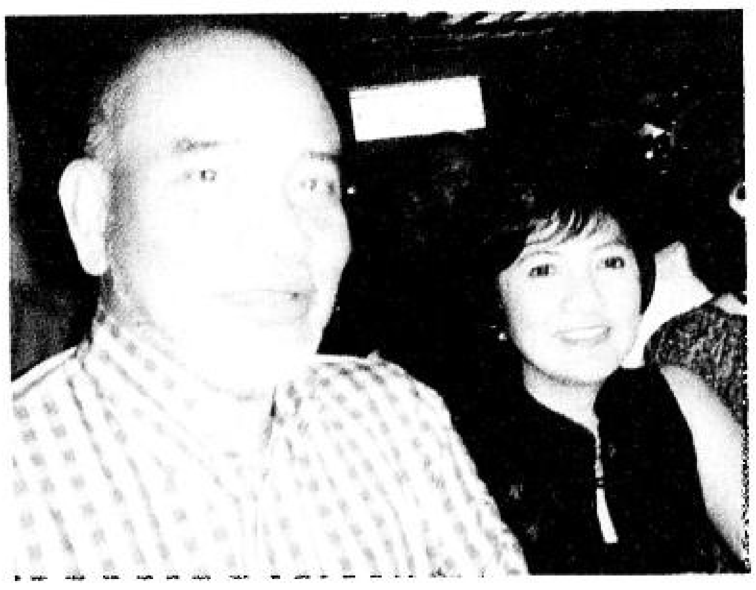
The event also showcased a powerhouse cast of entertainers. **RJ Rosales** hosted the affair. **Rex Navarette** was truly outstanding. The Ugoy Ugoy band performed well while **Jaya** rendered soulful numbers. **Sonny** and **Christine Van Loo** performed acrobatics à la Cirque de Soleil.

Fabulous food was served by **Larry Cruz's** Havana and **Glenda Barretto's** Oyster Bar.

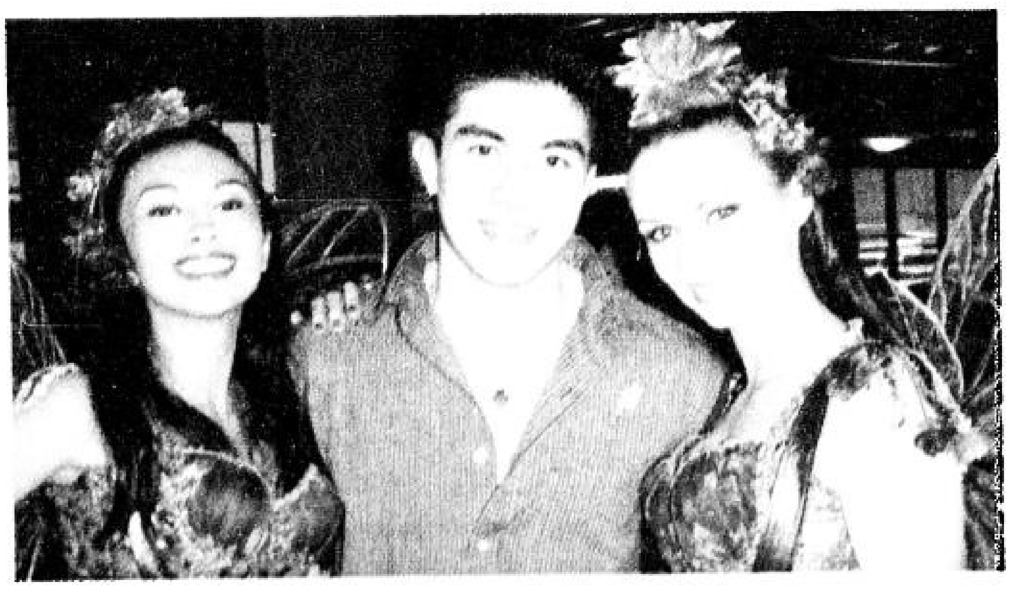
PAXTI Elizalde and Tita Trillo

JAIME Zobel with daughter Sofia Elizalde

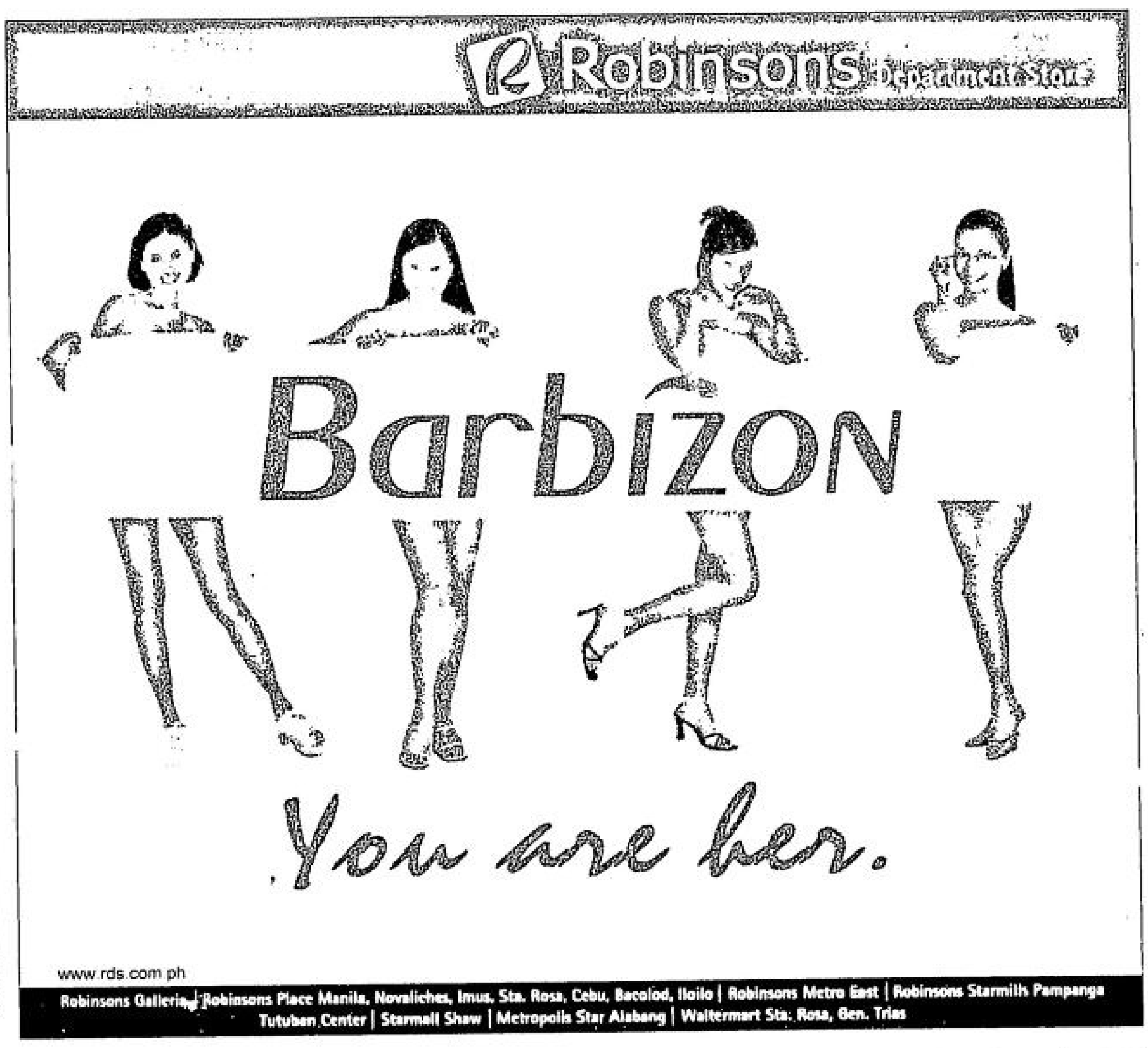
BONG Recio with Mr. and Ms Meloi Casas



LARRY and Merle Cruz



LUCKY Manzano with fairy receptionists



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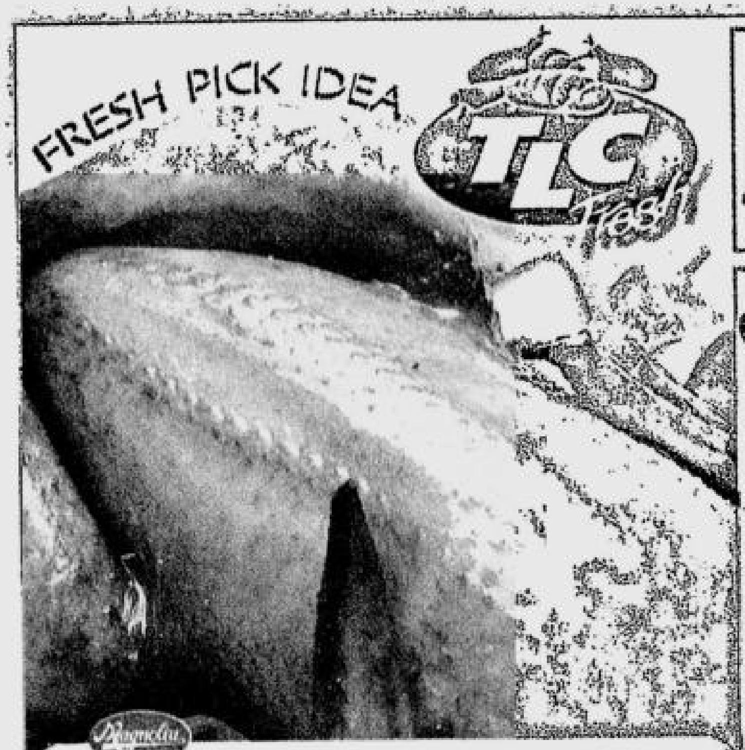
TLC Total Lower Cost

FRESH PICK IDEA

TLC Fresh



HONEY ROASTED CHICKEN

Ingredients:

1 whole Magnolia Whole Chicken

Marinade:
1 tsp. salt
3 pcs. chopped shallots/ sibuyas tagalog
2 tsps. chopped ginger
3 cloves minced garlic
1 pc. sangki
2 tsps. soy sauce
2 tsps. refined sugar
1/2 tsp. vinegar
2 tbsps. butter, melted
2 tbsps. honey

Procedure:

Marinate chicken with salt, shallots/ sibuyas tagalog, ginger, garlic, sangki and soy sauce. Rub the chicken thoroughly with marinade inside and out.

Combine sugar and vinegar and brush mixture on the surface of the chicken. Refrigerate overnight.

Preheat oven/rotisserie at 350 °F. Brush marinade and melted butter all over chicken and place on top of rack. Place the chicken at the center of the oven and cook for 30 to 45 minutes, basting it with dripping two to three times. Brush chicken with honey 10 minutes before removing from the oven. Serve immediately.

MAGNOLIA
Frozen Chicken
TLC PRICE
P65.00 /kg.

Ginger
TLC PRICE
P37.00 /kg.

DATU PUTI
Vinegar
385 mL
TLC PRICE
P7.50 ea.
Reg. Price 7.75

SHANGHAI
All Purpose Soy Sauce
620 mL
TLC PRICE
P33.50
Reg. Price 39.00

Onion White Local
TLC PRICE
P26.00 /kg.

MONTEREY
Pork Butterfly Cut
TLC PRICE
P130.00 /kg.
Reg. Price 148.00

MONTEREY
Pork Cubes
TLC PRICE
P130.00 /kg.
Reg. Price 148.00

MONTEREY
Beef Brisket
TLC PRICE
P145.00 /kg.
Reg. Price 165.00

BIG MAMA
Beef Caldereta Cut
TLC PRICE
P97.00 /kg.
Reg. Price 106.00

BIG MAMA
Pork Sinigang Cut
TLC PRICE
P70.00 /kg.
Reg. Price 80.00

Bangus
• Medium
TLC PRICE
P65.00 /kg.

Tinapang Galunggong
TLC PRICE
P126.00 /kg.

Sayote
TLC PRICE
P9.00 /kg.

Cucumber
TLC PRICE
P32.00 /kg.

SM BONUS
Washington Apples
6's
TLC PRICE
P90.00 /pk.

SM BONUS
Ponkan
6's
TLC PRICE
P47.00 /pk.

Melon Cantaloupe
TLC PRICE
P24.00 ea.

PUREFOODS
Tender Juicy Hotdog
• Cocktail
1kg.
TLC PRICE
P141.25 /pk.

SWIFT
Sweet 'n Juicy Hotdog
• Regular
1kg
TLC PRICE
P94.00 /pk.

MINOLA
Cooking Oil
1 Liter
TLC PRICE
P43.00 ea.
Reg. Price 44.00

JUFRAN
Sweet Chili Sauce
330 g.
TLC PRICE
P22.75 ea.
Reg. Price 25.00

NESTLÉ
Chamyto
• Apple
80 mL/5's
TLC PRICE
P27.50 /pk.

KRAFT
Eden Filled Cheese
• With Buttermilk
200 g
TLC PRICE
P25.00

MAGGI
Tinola Cubes
22 g/3's
TLC PRICE
P18.50 /pk.
Reg. Price 19.50

MAMA SITA'S
Tamarind Mix
18 g
TLC PRICE
P6.00 ea.
Reg. Price 6.50

NESTLÉ
Kit Kat Wafer
17 g.
TLC PRICE
P7.50 /pk.
Reg. Price 7.75

HERSHEY'S
Kisses
• Milk Chocolate
284 g.
TLC PRICE
P137.50 /pk.
Reg. Price 144.50

PISTA
Instant Pansit Ulam
• All Flavors
60 g.
TLC PRICE
P4.80
Reg. Price 5.00

MAGGI
Instant Spaghetti
90 g/3's
TLC PRICE
P37.50 /pk.

FREE Memo Pad

KEEBLER
Chips Deluxe Cookies
• Chocolate Lovers
453 g. (16 oz.)
TLC PRICE
P139.50 /pk.
Reg. Price 149.50

WHAMMO'S
Cup Cake
• On Selected Variants
10's
TLC PRICE
P43.00 /pk.
Reg. Price 47.00

OVALTINE
Power Choco Powder
300 g
TLC PRICE
P37.25 ea.

ARGENTINA
Meat Loaf
170 g.
TLC PRICE
P11.75 ea.

LIPTON
Ice Tea
• All Flavors
200 g.
TLC PRICE
P20.00
Reg. Price 21.50

NUTRI-LICIOUS
Mango Juice Drink
1 Liter
TLC PRICE
P61.50 ea.
Reg. Price 64.50

NESCAFÉ
Classic Coffee
50 g
TLC PRICE
P24.00 /pk.

NESTLÉ
Coffee-Mate
200 g
TLC PRICE
P27.50 /pk.

SENSODYNE
Toothpaste
• All variants
130 g
TLC PRICE
P210.00 ea.
Reg. Price 223.75

POND'S
Facial Cleanser
• On Selected variants
100 mL.
TLC PRICE
P85.75 ea.
Reg. Price 91.75

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3+ Full Cream Milk
400 g
TLC PRICE
P114.75 /pk.

ANCHOR
1+ Growing-Up Milk
1 kg.
TLC PRICE
P260.95 ea.

BLOCK & WHITE
Deo Stick
• Fresh Bouquet
• Morning Fresh
40 g
TLC PRICE
P104.75 ea.
Reg. Price 109.75

YSA
Botanica Soap
• With Papaya
65 g.
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Reg. Price 17.75

PALMOLIVE
Naturals Shampoo
• On Selected variants
200 mL.
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Reg. Price 71.75

EQ
Disposable Diapers
• Dry
32's
TLC PRICE
P235.00 /pk.
Reg. Price 251.00

CAREFREE
Panty Shield Ultra Thin
• Scented
• Unscented
20's
TLC PRICE
P38.75 /pk.
Reg. Price 40.50

PRIDE
Detergent Powder
2 kg.
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ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

In China, all births are incorporated into government planning for social and economic development

Long road to single motherhood

By Ma Yang and Ma Guihua

BEIJING—Chen Yifan, manager in a private company in Changchun City, Jilin Province, northeast China, often dreamt of having a baby of her own. But as she wasn't married, the State would have "punished" her for this offense. In China, children born to single women are considered "unplanned" under the government's family planning law and policy. All births are incorporated into government planning for social and economic development.

Yifan, 45, fell in love in the early '80s but the affair ended on a bitter note. Heartbroken, Yifan didn't try looking for another partner and decided to stay single. She craved to be a mother but having a baby without a husband was both a social taboo and illegal in China. But in October 2002, the Jilin Provincial People's Congress, the State's highest representative body, allowed single women to have babies.

The Regulation on Population and Family Planning in Jilin Province, published by the Congress, allowed "women (in the province) having reached the legal age of marriage while intending to be single for life to give birth with the aid of legal medical methods." (Legal medical methods imply assisted reproductive technology [ART] services such as artificial insemination. Human cloning is illegal in China.) According to local officials, women have been demanding this right for long. "Single women often inquired whether they were allowed to produce a test-tube baby. Most of these women were educated and well-off," said Jiang Guomin, director of Law and Legislation Division, Jilin Provincial Family Planning Commission. "Their demand was strong, even though they were few in numbers. One inquirer, a teacher, even threatened to sue us if we denied her the right to have her own baby."

Guomin said that though the commission was quite sympathetic towards these women, "in the absence of a family planning law, we couldn't make a provision in the local legislation to allow women to give birth without getting married."

Family planning law

But in December 2001, the National People's Congress (Chinese parliament) adopted the China Population and Family Planning Law, which became effective on Sept. 1, 2002. The Jilin Provincial People's Congress was now obliged to formulate a set of local regulations on implementing the law. "This prompted the Congress to also debate the possibility of legalizing births by single women," says Guomin.

Yang Xianglan, chairwoman of the Jilin Provincial Women's Federation and member of the Legislation Committee of the Jilin Provincial People's Congress said, "Chinese women are becoming increasingly independent. When a woman chooses to be single, she should not be deprived of her right to birth."

This is the first attempt in China to legalize the right of single women to have children. No sooner had these regulations been published that a debate broke out across the country. An opinion poll conducted by a popular website, www.sina.com, showed that 60 percent of the respondents supported the latest move taken by Jilin Province while 40 per cent opposed it. Meng Fanchao, professor of Law at the Northeast Normal University, welcomes the legislation but has some misgivings about it. "What happens when the single mother dies and her child is still too young to be financially independent? Will the biological father be obliged to bring up the child?"

Fanchao feels the child, like all children born to unmarried couples, should have the right to paternal love and education, as well as the right to know who her/his father is.

Liang Jianfang from south China's Guangdong expresses similar concerns. "We have decided even before the child is born that she/he will be fatherless. Is it moral to create a broken family by artificial means?"

Interests of men

A few also argue for the interests of men. "Men and women are equal before law," says Li Xin, a journalist in Beijing. "Why can't a single man enjoy the same right? What happens to the child if the woman decides to marry?"

However, Zhang Manliang, an official at the Legislation Office of the Jilin Provincial Government, and one of the first to lobby for this kind of legislation, insists that it conforms to the basic principle of the national law. "Nothing can be risk-free," he says. "You can't give up eating for fear of getting choked."

Thus far, Chinese legislation emphasizes the obligation of citizens in light of the vital need for the country to control the growth of its population. "We are beginning to shift the emphasis to both obligations and rights," Zhang said. He also dismisses the fears expressed by some people about parenthood. "In China, sperm donors sign an agreement with the relevant party saying that as biological fathers, they neither have an obligation to rear children produced from their sperms, nor the right to ask for support from these children."

Zhang also feels that the child's demand for fatherly love is not a right that can be regulated by law. Of course, even women cannot misuse this. "If a single woman who has produced a child through medical assistance changes her mind and wants to marry and have another child, the Population and Family Planning Law will prohibit her from doing do."

Though many people in Jilin have inquired from the Provincial Family Planning Commission about the legislation, no women have so far applied.

After Jilin, so far no other province has granted the right to single women. The municipalities of Beijing and Tianjin, the Chengdu City and the provinces of Guangzhou, Shaanxi and Henan have announced that in the near future, it is unlikely that such rights will be granted.

While the debate continues, single women like Yifan are preparing for motherhood. "I am waiting for my dream to be realized."

Women's Feature Service

CALLING ALL BEDANS!

SBCAA

TWO Red-Letter Days for this You February

February 20, 2003

THE ANNUAL RED & WHITE BALL

An invitation from the
San Beda College Alumni Association, Inc.
and
San Beda College Alumni Foundation, Inc.

A Celebration of Bedan Achievement
(Sports Hall of Fame, Bedan Achievers & Ramon V. Mitra Award for Legislation)

and

Fund-Raising Event
(For Academic Leadership, Sports Development, Professorial Chairs)

Thursday, 6:00 p.m.
NBC Tent, Bonifacio Global City

February 22, 2003

SAN BEDA GRAND ALUMNI HOMECOMING 2003

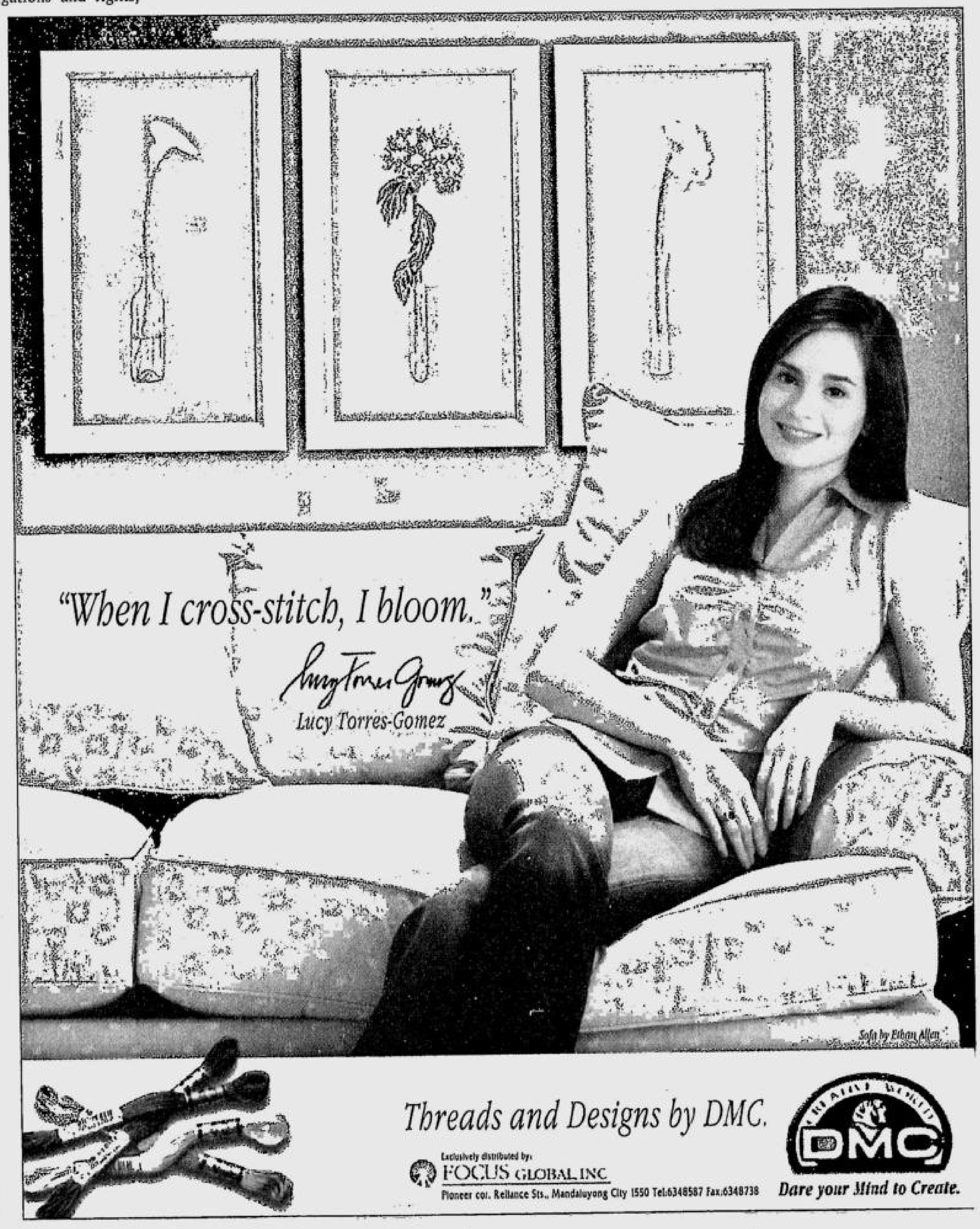
"Hinahanap-hanap kita, San Beda.
...I'm coming home."

An invitation from the host jubilarians
High School Classes of 1953 and 1978

2:00 p.m.
A Eucharistic Celebration
at the Abbey Church of Our Lady of Montserrat
and Awarding Rites for Jubilarians

5:00 p.m.
Homecoming Program
at the College Quadrangle,
San Beda College, Mendiola, Manila

For tickets & inquiries, pls call the SBC Alumni Secretariat Office (c/o Prof. Joffre Alajar or Wilma Abellanosa)
Tel. Nos. 735-5995 or 735-6011 loc. 2740


"When I cross-stitch, I bloom."
Lucy Torres-Gomez
Lucy Torres-Gomez
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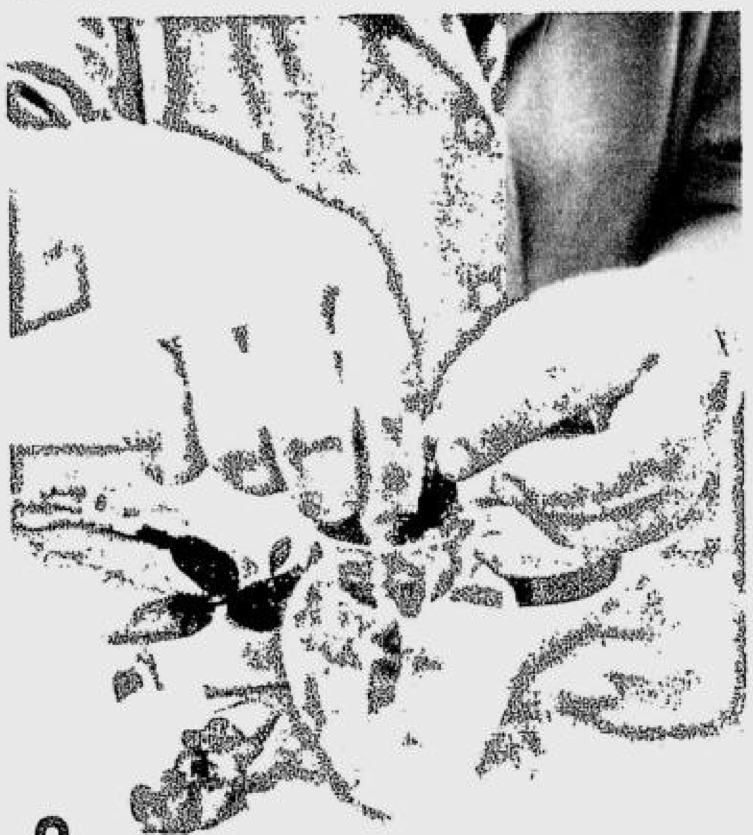


2

SECURE flowers with floral tape and arrange.

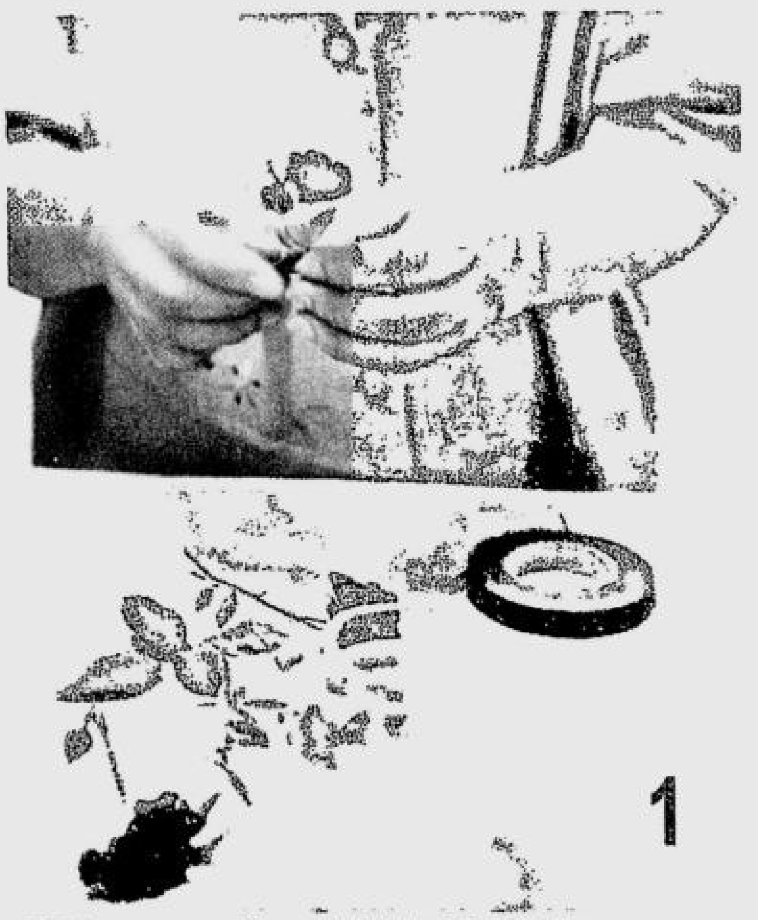
3

CAREFULLY insert flowers face up in the container. Using a funnel, slowly pour silica gel over the flowers.

4

FILL up the container with silica gel until the flowers are completely covered, gently working it up and around the blooms leaving no part untouched.

Forever young *flowers*



1

CUT the stems according to the height of the container

CRAFT

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

FOR flower enthusiasts, the art of flower drying has been made a lot easier with the use of silica gel. The gels are those little white granules in small sachets that are often in the box of new leather bags, shoes and several other items.

Silica, a chemical substance, is used as dehumidifying and dehydrating agent. In flower drying, the gel offers the best method for preserving the natural beauty of fresh blooms. The gel absorbs the moisture of the flowers with little effect on color and form.

"Dried flowers can be used in distinctive decorative arrangements, which are long-lasting and can be enjoyed for months, even years, and require little care," says Zeny Perez of Craft World in Robinsons Galleria (634-5882).

Moreover, flower drying is not complicated or time consuming. It is inexpensive and can be done by anyone even without any previous experience. Flower drying is also a good way to expand gardening activities.

In flower drying, silica gel is best for preserving the natural beauty of fresh blooms

"The art of flower drying is so easy that you can get professional results right from the start," according to Perez. Since preserved flowers do not require water, any type of vase or holder can be used.

To start the project, a decorative clear vase, glass or bottle will be needed as well as fresh flowers (any type), silica gel crystals, scissors and other materials like floral tape, floral wire, floral foam, long tweezers and double adhesive tape. Silica gel can be bought from most hardware stores, garden centers, hobby or craft stores like Craft World under various brand names and different packaging.

Any container that can be closed tightly may be used for drying. The main objective is, of course, to keep out any moisture during the process.

The time required for drying varies with the size, texture and moisture content of the flowers and foliage. Usually, according to Perez, it takes five to seven days.

To dry flowers and foliage with silica gel, flowers must be picked when they have just opened and are in perfect shape. The blooms should also be as perfect as possible before the desiccant (drying medium or silica) is applied. Otherwise, flaws will be highlighted and the finished product will look ugly.

Flowers must be completely dry. If dew or some other moisture is on the flowers when covered with silica, the gel will stick to the petals.

Stems should be wired before being placed in the silica gel, as they will be more fragile afterwards. Wiring makes the stem stronger for insertion into a floral foam base and much more flexible than the natural one. Putting a Styrofoam layer at the bottom of the container (before a layer of silica gel is added) is also very handy for holding the wires of dried flowers, especially if a large container and a lot of flowers are used.

Silica gel is reusable and it is a very economical craft medium, so apply it generously and make sure each flower is totally covered from the end of the stem to the tips of the petals.

For suggestions, e-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

5

USE a tight cover for the container and seal it with masking tape. Put it away for five to seven days in a dry place where the contents will not be disturbed.

SILICA GEL
CRYSTALS

6

TO REMOVE flowers, pour off mixture slowly until the blooms are uncovered. Lift out flowers gently and blow away any particles that adhere. Remove silica gel with a soft artist's brush, leaving a very small amount of silica

7 **ATTRACTIVE** dried flowers in different glass containers

Romancing the arts at the Shang

MALLERS can look forward to a fascinating date with the arts as Shangri-La Plaza marks the love month of February with special presentations that will underscore the mall's passion and support for culture and the arts.

Fall in love with the sea as guest artist Kang Jong Yeol takes you to a journey of peace, liberty and love in his show at the Artistree Fine Art Gallery on the 6/L. Ongoing until Feb. 28, the exhibit showcases the Korean artist's recent works that depict a new meaning of the sea and the world.

For music enthusiasts, more than 500 Beatles memorabilia will be on display (Feb. 15-April 31) at the mall's Metrolink on Level 5. Recall the phenomenal Beatles history through this first-ever public display featuring authentic pieces ranging from the original Beatles tour jacket to autographed pencil sketches by John Lennon.

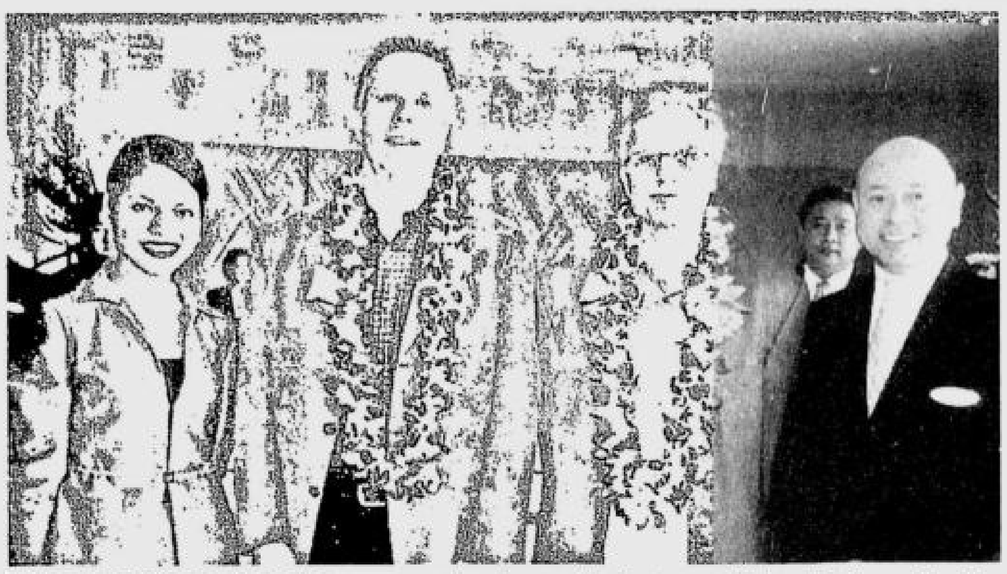
Know more about the Euro currency. In collaboration with the European Union, the mall will hold the Euro Currency Exhibit featuring notes and coins used by 12 EU-member countries from Feb. 14-16 at the grand atrium.

On Feb. 22, Shang Mall plays host to a special presentation by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, "Bahagharing Kalinangan," a celebration of cultural diversity through the arts. The event is in celebration of National Arts Month.

Japanese art takes centerstage on the final week of February. Shangri-La Plaza will once again be home to the Bonsai Masters of the Philippines Inc.'s "Bonsai Show 2003" for the benefit of Bantay Bata 163 (Feb. 25-March 1); the Ikebana International Manila Chapter 108's 35th annual exhibition billed "Ikebana-Simplicity in Colors" (Feb. 28-March 2); and the Japan Foundation Manila Office's "Eiga Sai 2003: Kurosawa Hiyoshi, The New Japanese Horror Cirtema" (Feb. 27-March 4) featuring six critically-acclaimed films by Kurosawa Kiyoshi, considered as the "vanguard of the new Japanese horror cinema."

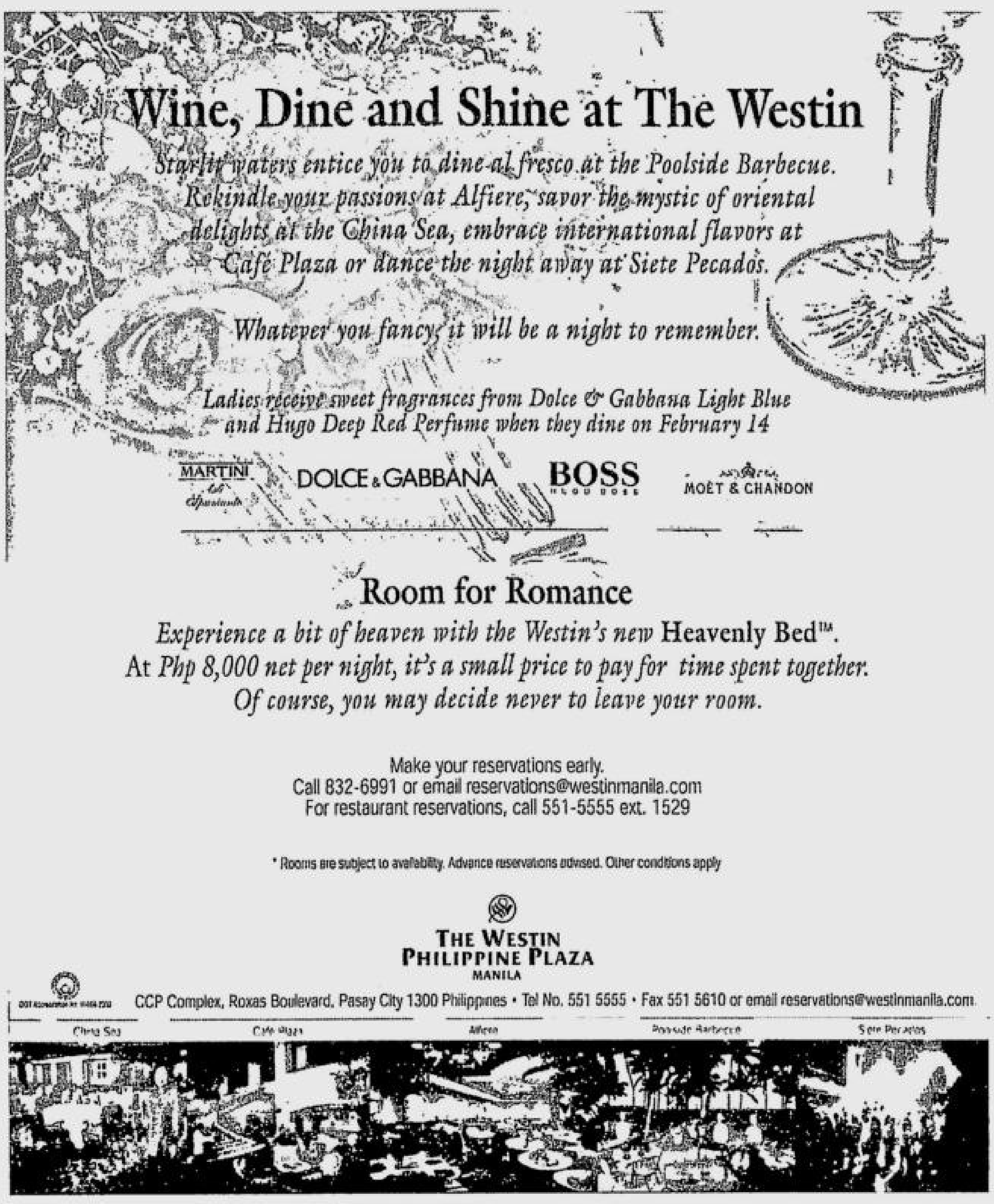
From Feb. 27-March 31, the mall hosts the international traveling exhibition, "Anne Frank—A History for Today" in collaboration with the Royal Netherlands embassy. The exhibit aims not only to present history but also to challenge viewers to promote peace and harmony. Anne Frank's life story is a historical journey through the Holocaust years. In the exhibition, the story of Anne Frank is completed by accounts of other eyewitnesses about World War II.

Call 633-7851.



THE BELLEVUE Manila in Alabang recently welcomed its first guest, Richard Foltz, regional director, Asean of SCA Hygiene Products. Photo shows the hotel's director of sales, Myra Miranda; Richard Foltz; Olle Carlbark, SCA Hygiene Products' R&D manager-Asean; and The Bellevue Manila's general manager, Jesse Chervez. Call 771-8181.

THERESIANS (seated from left) Ton Sombilon, ChiChi Aragon, Carol Arjonillo, Sheila Yap, Josette Navarra, Myra Simon, Tina Cruz, Tecci Ticzon, Nelda Postrero, Tina Chung; (standing from left) Chilette Abiera, Joy Almanzor, Joji Tan, Andy Rubio, Maret Bautista, Joanna Misa, Dang Cecilio-Palanca, Mari Delfin, Jing Tolentino, Reni Singer, Lia Francisco, Evans Baclig and Ayeng Uy.


Wine, Dine and Shine at The Westin

Starlit waters entice you to dine al fresco at the Poolside Barbecue. Rekindle your passions at Alfiere, savor the mystic of oriental delights at the China Sea, embrace international flavors at Café Plaza or dance the night away at Siete Pecados.

Whatever you fancy, it will be a night to remember.

Ladies receive sweet fragrances from Dolce & Gabbana Light Blue and Hugo Deep Red Perfume when they dine on February 14

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St. Theresa's holds silver jubilee homecoming

ST. THERESA'S College Manila will hold its annual homecoming on Feb. 22, at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel's Rizal Ballroom. Registration starts at 4 p.m. and a Holy Mass at 5:30 p.m. to be celebrated by Fr. Jojo Magadia, followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. Call Tess Abellon, 740-1810; Cecile Macam Perlas, 372-0601/0916-373-0617; or Susan Lanuza Nieva, 724-6334/0917-8406334.

GOINGS ON

REUNION. The members of Class 1949 (April) of Torres High School is holding a reunion on Feb. 16 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Club Filipino. For details, call Dr. Leticia de Mesa, 928-7282.

REUNION. Pangasinan Provincial High School batch '63 will celebrate its ruby anniversary with a class reunion on April 26, at the school campus in Lingayen, Pangasinan. Call Evalyn De Guzman-Hizon at 936-1424 or 417-0498; Jesus Bugayong, 930-1463; Anacleto Banaag, 634-2641 or 645-7503; and Manuel Rosario, 928-4910 or 291-9968; Juanito Palisoc, (075) 542-6122, Rosario Ferrer, (075) 542-4217.

HOMECOMING. San Beda's High School Class of 1953 and 1978 will hold an alumni homecoming on Feb.22 at the College Quadrangle of San Beda College in Mendiola, Manila. Program starts with a Holy Mass at 2 p.m. Call 735-5995/6011 local 2740.

PERFORMANCE. The Century Park Hotel and Candid Records Philippines will feature Ladine Roxas on Feb. 14 at the Grand Ballroom. The event also features Jeremiah. Cocktails is at 7 p.m. with showtime at 9:30 p.m.

VALENTINE SALE. Jag Jeans is holding a Valentine sale at SM Bacoor, SM City and SM Megamall until Feb. 16. The super slash-down sale offers up to 70-percent discounts on selected items.

For stylish moms and dads, Jag Jeans has the classic style. For the hip dudes and ladies, there's the Jag Thug collection. And for fashionable tots, there's the super chic Jag Kids.

SEARCH. The Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall has launched the Mr. and Ms. Sexy Body 2003. If you are between 16 and 25, at least a high school student, with a height of 5'4" (female) and 5'8" (male), blessed with good looks, confidence, a well-proportioned body and clear skin, you can be this year's first batch of winners in the Mr. and Ms. Sexy Body to be held at The Brick Road. Applicants must fill up entry forms available at the Ad & Promo Department, Basement Level, Phase III of Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall and attach a copy of his/her birth certificate plus a close-up and full body photo taken within the last six months. The first elimination round will be held on March 1 at the stage area of The Brick Road.

DISCOUNTS. Enjoy discounts at participating stores by charging your purchases to your Citibank Gold or Platinum card. Get as much as 50 percent off when shopping for jewelry, shoes, clothing and furniture or when dining in first-class hotels and resorts.

CONCERT. The San Miguel Ortigas will present "Love is in the Air" today at 2:30 p.m. Nolyn Cabahug and the San Diego Philharmonic Orchestra will perform love songs. Call 632-7144 or 637-5499.

TREATS. As part of its "February Fun," Cebu Pacific offers goodies, treats and surprises today from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the pre-departure area of the Manila Domestic Airport. Passengers onboard will receive Valentine gifts.

BAZAAR. Love Bazaar offers the best bargains on Feb. 15 and 16 at the NBC Tent. Open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., the bazaar features designer clothes, shoes, bags and accessories for both men and women. Also available are goodies, houseware, linen, children's toys, cellular phone gadgets and many more. Aside from food and beverage booths, the bazaar also has a play area with a giant slide, where kids can relax while mom and dad check out the different bazaar items.

BOOK LAUNCH. "Culion Island: A Leper Colony's 100-Year Journey Toward Healing" will be launched on Feb. 20, 4 p.m., at the Turf Room of Manila Polo Club, Mckinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati. Call CFI at 812-2170.

PROMO. Epson offers Daredevil sports caps for free. Simply purchase any of these Epson inkjet printers: Stylus C41sx, Stylus C61, Stylus Photo 830 from authorized Epson dealer outlets nationwide. Promo runs from Feb. 18 to April 30.

THE OUTLET Yard offers a wide choice of fashion merchandise at factory outlet prices. Aside from the fashion retail shops, The Outlet Yard has several novelty and accessories stores where you can buy Valentine gifts for your loved ones. The Outlet Yard is on Quezon Avenue, near the corner of Scout Borromeo.

ETHAN ALLEN HOME INTERIORS
Prosperity Sale
up to 50% OFF on selected items
Feb. 14, 15 &16, 2003

Make room for good fortune this Year of the Goat. Bring home choice furniture pieces, sets and accessories from the many Ethan Allen collections. Spot the red envelopes for huge discounts! Hurry, sale is on for three days only!

ETHAN ALLEN HOME INTERIORS
www.ethanallen.com.ph

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO.A3-102 SERIES OF 2003

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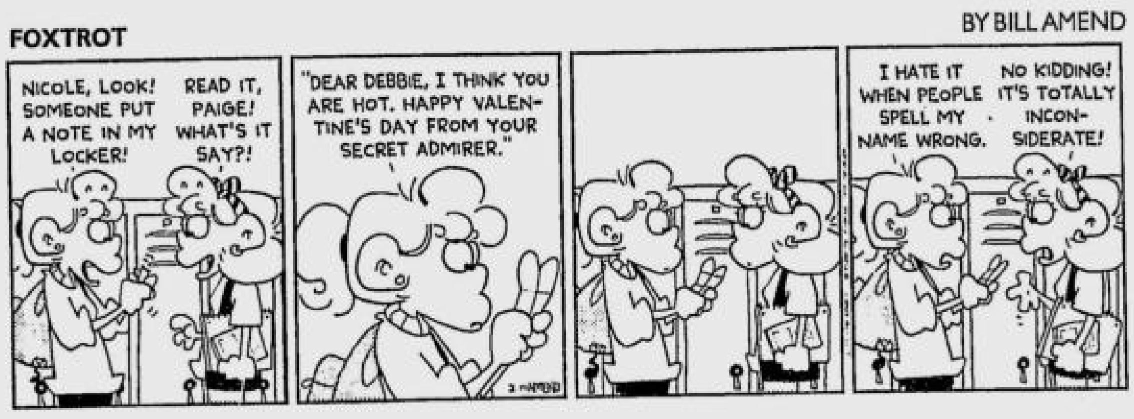
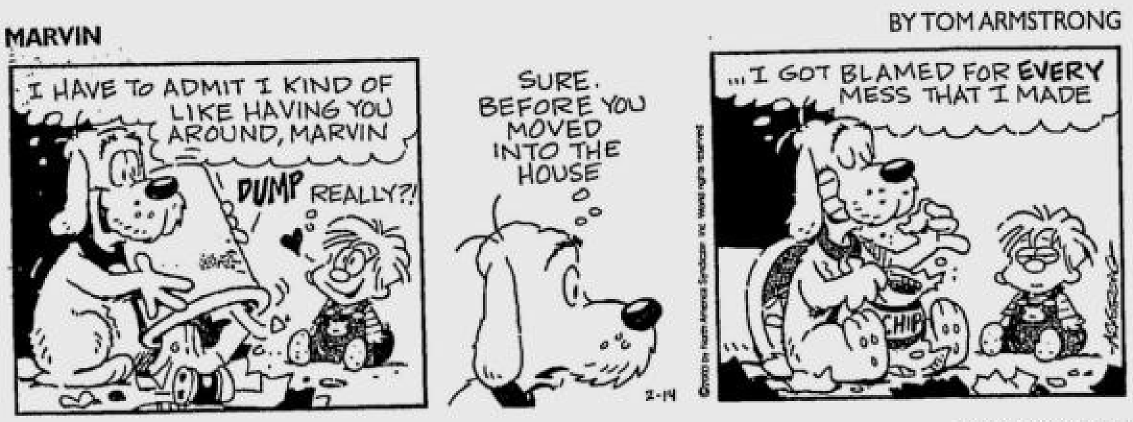
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


NICOLE, LOOK! SOMEONE PUT A NOTE IN MY LOCKER!
READ IT, PAIGE! WHAT'S IT SAY?!
"DEAR DEBBIE, I THINK YOU ARE HOT. HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY FROM YOUR SECRET ADMIRER."
I HATE IT WHEN PEOPLE SPELL MY NAME WRONG.
NO KIDDING! IT'S TOTALLY INCONSIDERATE!

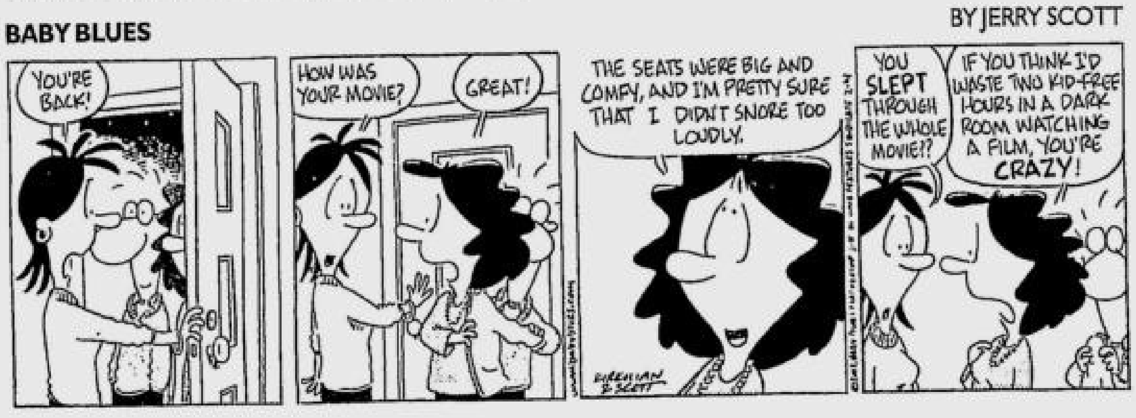
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I HAVE TO ADMIT I KIND OF LIKE HAVING YOU AROUND, MARVIN
DUMP
REALLY?!
SURE. BEFORE YOU MOVED INTO THE HOUSE
...I GOT BLAMED FOR EVERY MESS THAT I MADE
CHIPS
2-14

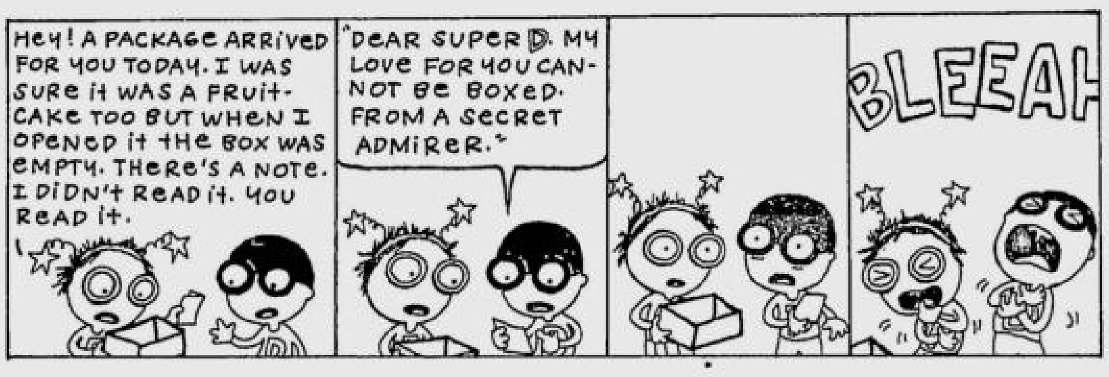
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


YOU'RE BACK!
HOW WAS YOUR MOVIE?
GREAT!
THE SEATS WERE BIG AND COMFY, AND I'M PRETTY SURE THAT I DIDN'T SNORE TOO LOUDLY.
YOU SLEPT THROUGH THE WHOLE MOVIE!?
IF YOU THINK I'D WASTE TWO KID-FREE HOURS IN A DARK ROOM WATCHING A FILM, YOU'RE CRAZY!

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey! A PACKAGE ARRIVED FOR YOU TODAY. I WAS SURE IT WAS A FRUITCAKE TOO BUT WHEN I OPENED IT THE BOX WAS EMPTY. THERE'S A NOTE. I DIDN'T READ IT. YOU READ IT.
"DEAR SUPER D. MY LOVE FOR YOU CANNOT BE BOXED. FROM A SECRET ADMIRER."
BLEEAH

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Gregory Hines, Dave Dravecky, Jack Benny, Meg Tilly

Happy Birthday: Think before you act this year if you want things to run smoothly. You will make some positive changes if you focus on what's important. Put your efforts into self-improvement and the changes that will bring you greater self-confidence and more popularity. You'll get the results you are looking for. Your numbers are 8, 13, 22, 35, 40, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't let the people around you confuse you today. You may not be too happy about the changes going on around you, but bide your time and let things unfold as they may.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): It's time to answer some of your mail you've been ignoring. You may discover something interesting that you didn't notice before. It's time to take stock of your life, both emotionally and financially.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Temptation may get the better of you today if you are given a financial proposition that sounds too good to be true. Be careful and remember to keep everything in moderation today.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may be feeling sentimental, especially if you don't have any plans for Valentine's Day. Don't let anyone goad you into a debate or frustrate you. You need your peace and quiet.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Do something special for the one you love. The effort will be appreciated and you will feel energized. Take on whatever comes your way.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The more you can do to help others, the better you will feel about yourself. Your ability to pay close attention to small but important details will be valued.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't let anyone talk you into doing something that doesn't feel right. Please yourself for a change. Follow only your own beliefs.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your attitude is changing, which will enable you to grow in a positive direction. Your awareness is growing and your motives are becoming much clearer. Follow a new direction.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't be daunted by a few setbacks. Your knowledge and experience will be more valuable than you think, and you can offset many of the setbacks you have experienced in the past.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Arguing will be a waste of time and could result in a loss of friendship or trust. Be very cautious how you handle your business today. Don't let your emotions take over.

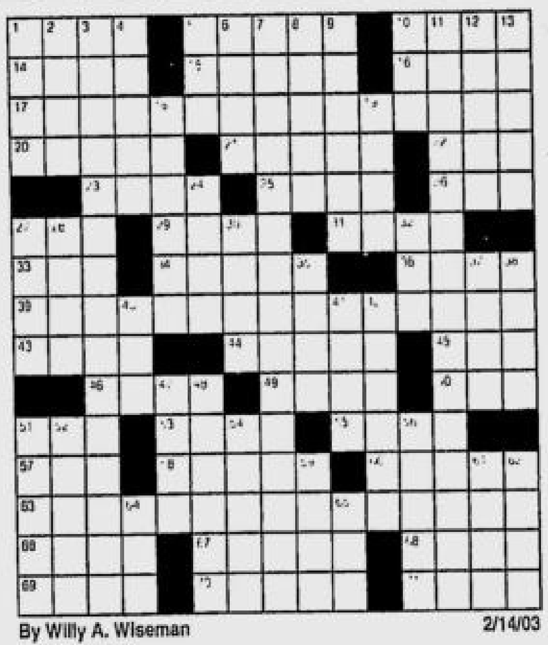
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It's time to take a look at your future and what your options are. You need to use your ingenuity if you want to get ahead. Put your ideas into play and believe in your abilities.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will be a sentimental fool today, especially with Valentine's Day foremost on your mind. It's time to let that special someone know how much you care.

Birthday Baby: You will be caring, nurturing and always willing to lend a helping hand. You will be energetic and will always think big when it [illegible] you want to do. You w[illegible] participate rather than stand by watching.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Sphagnum __
5 Rubbed out
10 Cob or pen
14 Solemn vow
15 Part
16 Couch
17 Three of hearts
20 Spirited board?
21 Pope who negotiated with Attila
22 Rabbit female
23 Formula One racer Lauda
25 Informer
26 Dr. Tim's drug
27 Joke or choke
29 Eye part
31 Writer Morrison
33 ERs neighbors
34 Denims
36 A single time
39 Three of hearts
43 Coin channel
44 "Prince of the City" director
45 Triumph
46 Fellini film
49 Costa __
50 Collection of anecdotes
51 Chowed down
53 Wile E. Coyote's supplier
55 Hip ending?
57 Gibson of "Lethal Weapon"
58 Burn with hot liquid
60 Not fulfilled
63 Three of hearts
66 Important times
67 From then until now
68 "Do _ others as..."
69 Umps' cohorts
70 Hayworth film, "M[illegible]



By Willy A. Wiseman
New York, NY
2/14/03

DOWN
1 Lorre in eight films
2 Waikiki's island
3 Three of hearts
4 Japanese sliding door
5 Harvest goddess
6 White lies
7 Three of hearts
8 Pathogenic bacteria
9 Meeting accepted standards
10 Compass pt.
11 Three of hearts
12 '60s hairdos
13 Identified
18 Scott of "Enterprise"
19 "Mikado" character
24 Currier and __
27 Valhalla crowd
28 Seed protector
[illegible]ier truck, briefly
37 Abel's killer
38 Sicilian volcano
40 Ike's arena
41 Brief time periods
47 False face
48 The right to enter
51 Fossil resin
52 __ Haute, IN
54 Soprano Callas
56 Follow as a sequence
61 External: pref.
62 Ring rulings, briefly
64 Silly billy
65 " _ Haw"

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

M	E	I	R		P	R	E	P	S		S	O	B	S
A	R	L	O		A	U	D	E	N		T	R	I	M
W	I	L	D	S	T	R	I	K	E		E	I	N	E
R	E	G	I	M	E		T	O	E		A	B	E	L
		O	N	O		C	H	E	R	S	M	I	T	T
B	A	T		G	E	R			S	I	B			
A	C	T	I		T	I	E	S		P	O	S	S	E
W	H	E	N	T	H	E	C	A	T	S	A	W	A	Y
L	E	N	T	O		D	U	T	Y		T	I	R	E
			R	O	G			U	S	C		M	A	D
T	O	M	A	T	O	S	U	P		O	S	S		
O	X	E	N		B	U	N		A	R	O	U	S	E
O	L	D	S		U	N	C	O	M	P	L	I	E	D
L	I	I	I		S	N	A	R	E		E	T	C	H
S	P	A	T		T	Y	P	E	S		S	S	T	S

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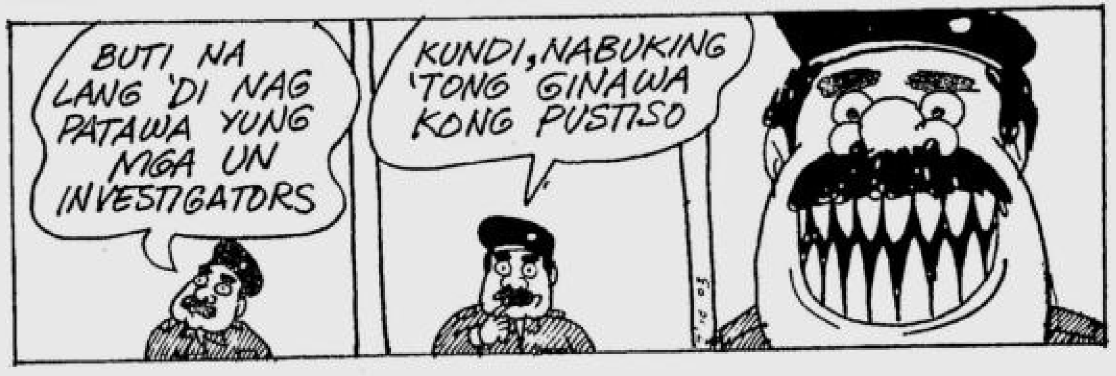
2/14/03

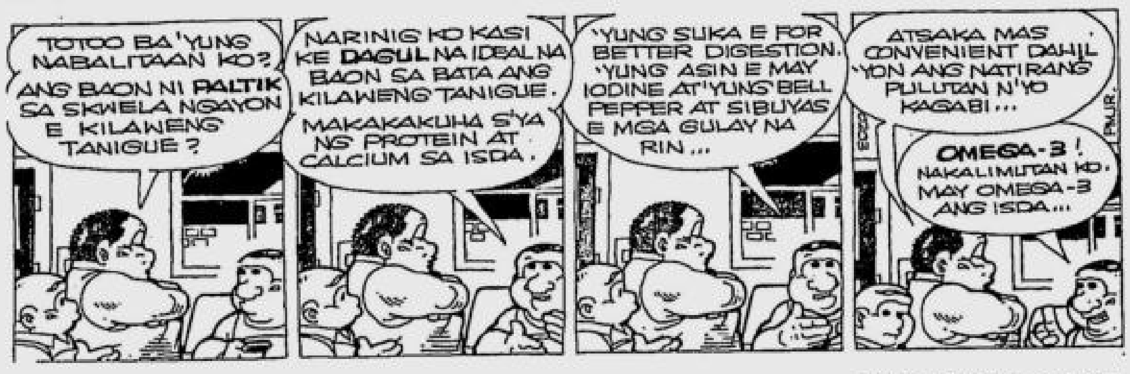
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


BUTI NA LANG 'DI NAG PATAWA YUNG MGA UN INVESTIGATORS
KUNDI, NABUKING 'TONG GINAWA KONG PUSTISO

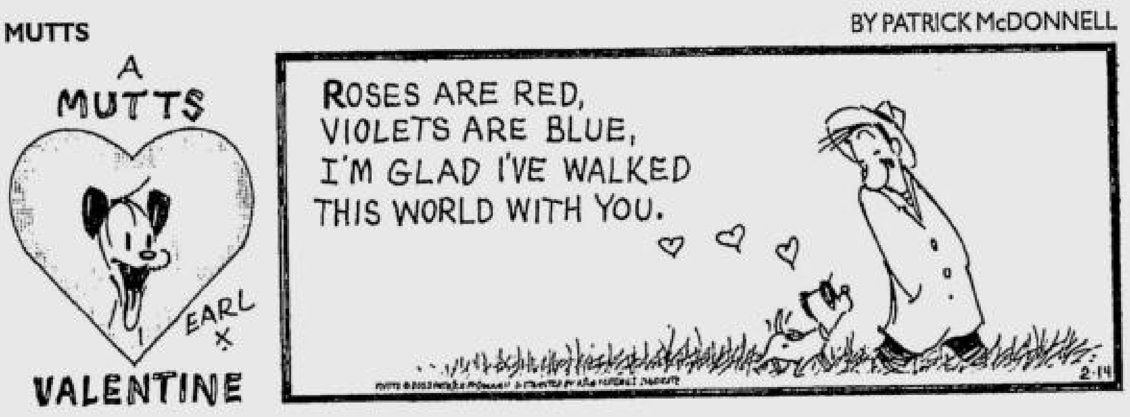
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


TOTOO BA 'YUNG NABALITAAN KO?
ANG BAON NI PALTIK SA SKWELA NGAYON E KILAWENG TANIGUE?
NARINIG KO KASI KE DAGUL NA IDEAL NA BAON SA BATA ANG KILAWENG TANIGUE.
MAKAKAKUHA S'YA NG PROTEIN AT CALCIUM SA ISDA.
'YUNG SUKA E FOR BETTER DIGESTION. 'YUNG ASIN E MAY IODINE AT 'YUNG BELL PEPPER AT SIBUYAS E MGA GULAY NA RIN...
ATSAKA MAS CONVENIENT DAHIL 'YON ANG NATIRANG PULUTAN N'YO KAGABI...
OMEGA-3! NAKALIMUTAN KO. MAY OMEGA-3 ANG ISDA...

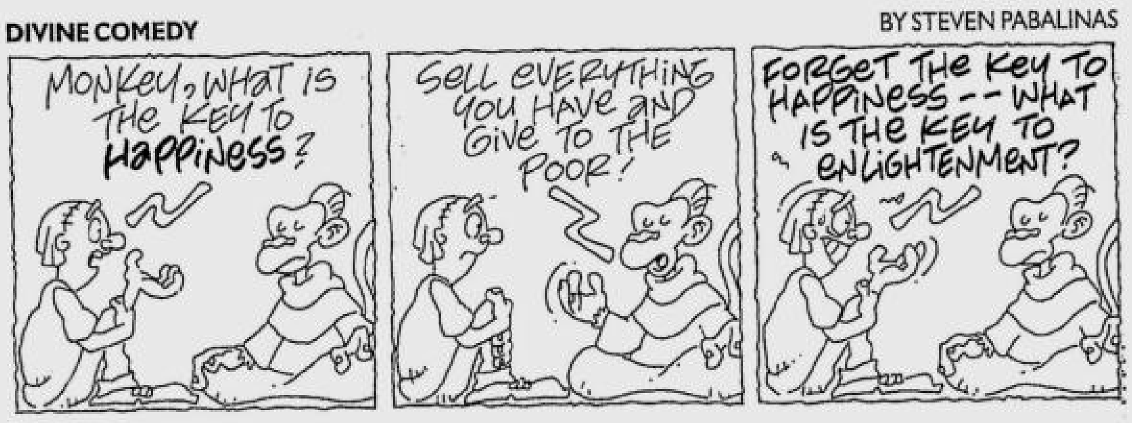
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


A MUTTS VALENTINE
EARL X
ROSES ARE RED,
VIOLETS ARE BLUE,
I'M GLAD I'VE WALKED
THIS WORLD WITH YOU.
2-14

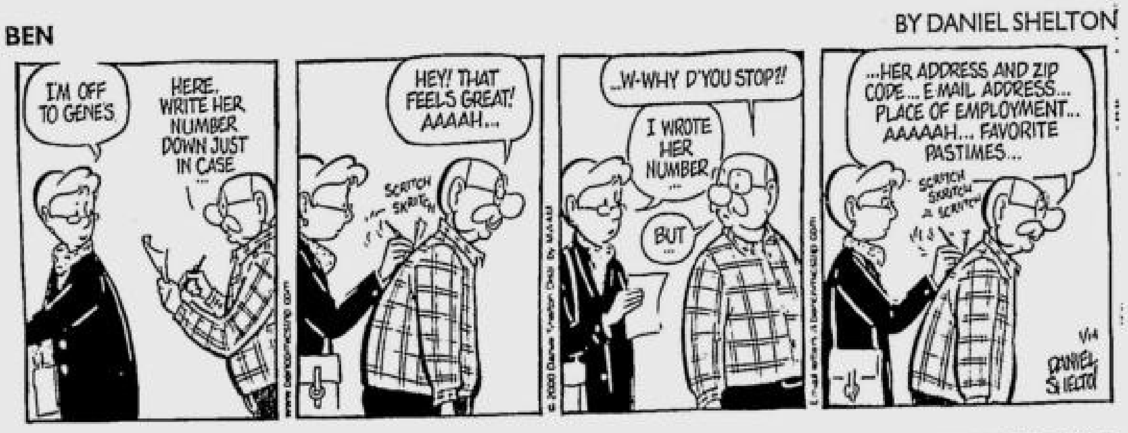
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


MONKEY, WHAT IS THE KEY TO HAPPINESS?
SELL EVERYTHING YOU HAVE AND GIVE TO THE POOR!
FORGET THE KEY TO HAPPINESS -- WHAT IS THE KEY TO ENLIGHTENMENT?

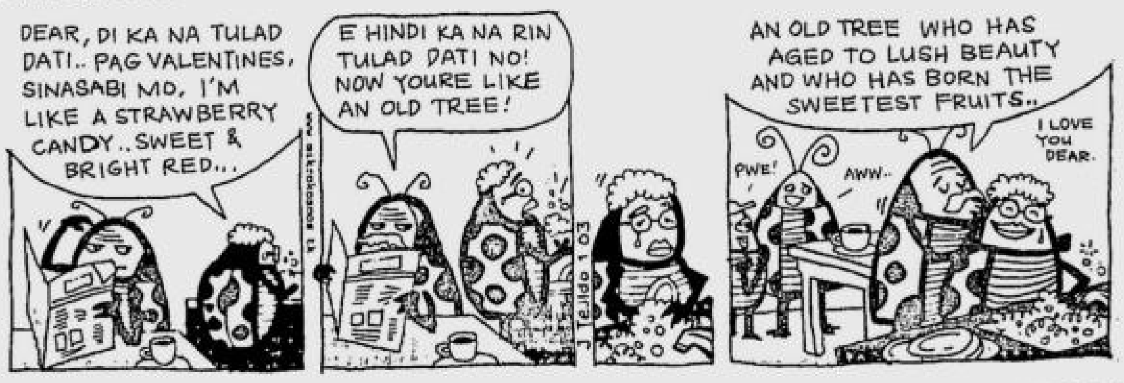
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I'M OFF TO GENE'S
HERE. WRITE HER NUMBER DOWN JUST IN CASE
HEY! THAT FEELS GREAT! AAAAH...
SCRITCH SKRITCH
...W-WHY D'YOU STOP?!
I WROTE HER NUMBER...
BUT...
...HER ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE... E-MAIL ADDRESS... PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT... AAAAAH... FAVORITE PASTIMES...
SCRITCH SCRITCH SCRITCH
DANIEL SHELTON

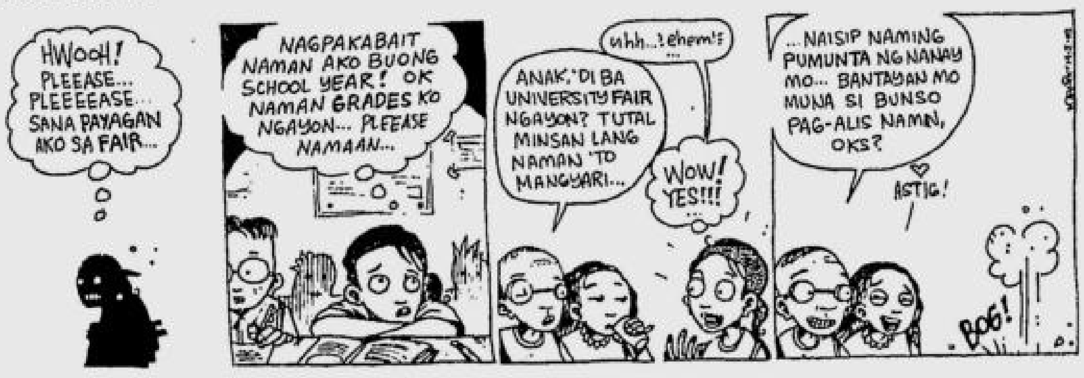
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


DEAR, DI KA NA TULAD DATI.. PAG VALENTINES, SINASABI MO, I'M LIKE A STRAWBERRY CANDY.. SWEET & BRIGHT RED...
E HINDI KA NA RIN TULAD DATI NO! NOW YOURE LIKE AN OLD TREE!
AN OLD TREE WHO HAS AGED TO LUSH BEAUTY AND WHO HAS BORN THE SWEETEST FRUITS..
PWE!
AWW..
I LOVE YOU DEAR.

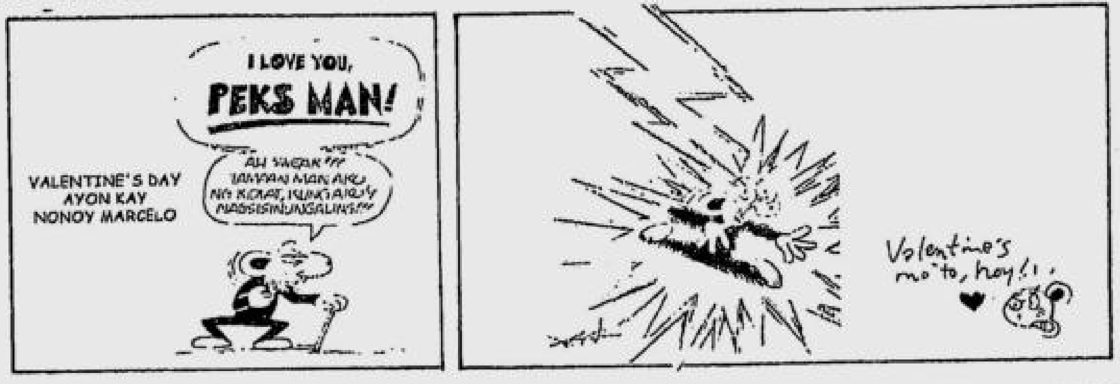
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HWOOH! PLEEASE... PLEEEEASE... SANA PAYAGAN AKO SA FAIR...
NAGPAKABAIT NAMAN AKO BUONG SCHOOL YEAR! OK NAMAN GRADES KO NGAYON... PLEEASE NAMAAN...
uhh...!ehem!
ANAK, 'DI BA UNIVERSITY FAIR NGAYON? TUTAL MINSAN LANG NAMAN 'TO MANGYARI...
WOW! YES!!!
...NAISIP NAMING PUMUNTA NG NANAY MO... BANTAYAN MO MUNA SI BUNSO PAG-ALIS NAMIN, OKS?
ASTIG!
BOG!

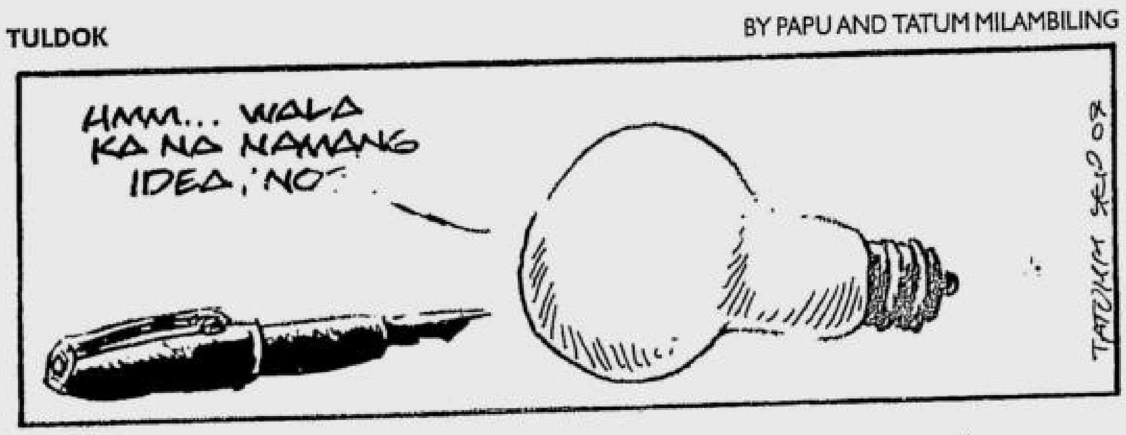
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


VALENTINE'S DAY AYON KAY NONOY MARCELO
I LOVE YOU, PEKS MAN!
AH SWEAR!!! TAMAAN MAN AKO NG KIDLAT, KUNG AKO'Y NAGSISINUNGALING!!!
Valentine's mo 'to, hoy!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


HMM... WALA KA NA NAMANG IDEA, 'NO
TATUM SKIP 03

Chain store exec feted

ALAN Goodman, director for international business development of Kate Spade, was in the Philippines for the opening of the Kate Spade and Jack Spade Boutiques at Greenbelt 3.

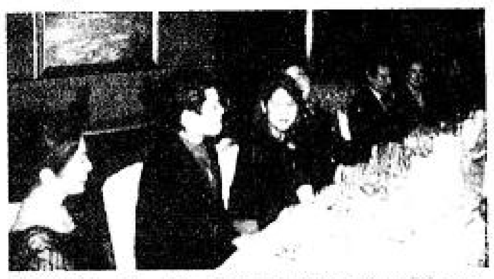
Nedy Tantoco and Anton Huang of Store Specialists Inc. (SSI) hosted a dinner for him at the Cheval Blanc, Makati Shangri-La. Among the dinner guests were Irene Francisco, Diana Jeanne Lopez, Mons Romulo-Tantoco, Lulu Rodriguez, Miriam Quiambao, Nina Huang, Elizabeth Quiambao, Cessie Colayco, Johnny Litton, Gen. Sonny Yan, Dr. Randy Francisco, Glen Gale, Pepe Rodriguez, Anton San Diego and Anton Mendoza.

ANTON Huang, Alan Goodman and Nedy Tantoco

SSI executive vice president Anton Huang, SSI general manager Elizabeth Quiambao, Alan Goodman, Miriam Quiambao, SSI president Nedy Tantoco; and Cessie Colayco, brand manager for Kate Spade

NINA Herrera-Huang

MIRIAM Quiambao, Alan Goodman and Nina Huang

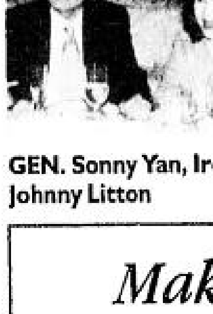


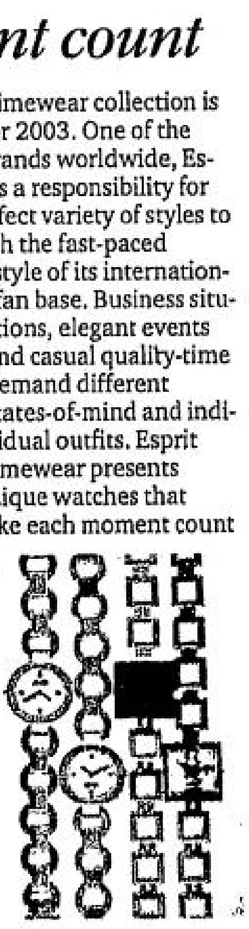
LULU Coching-Rodriguez, Anton San Diego, Mons Romulo-Tantoco, Anton Huamg, Pepe Rodriguez, DJ Lopez and Dr. Randy Francisco

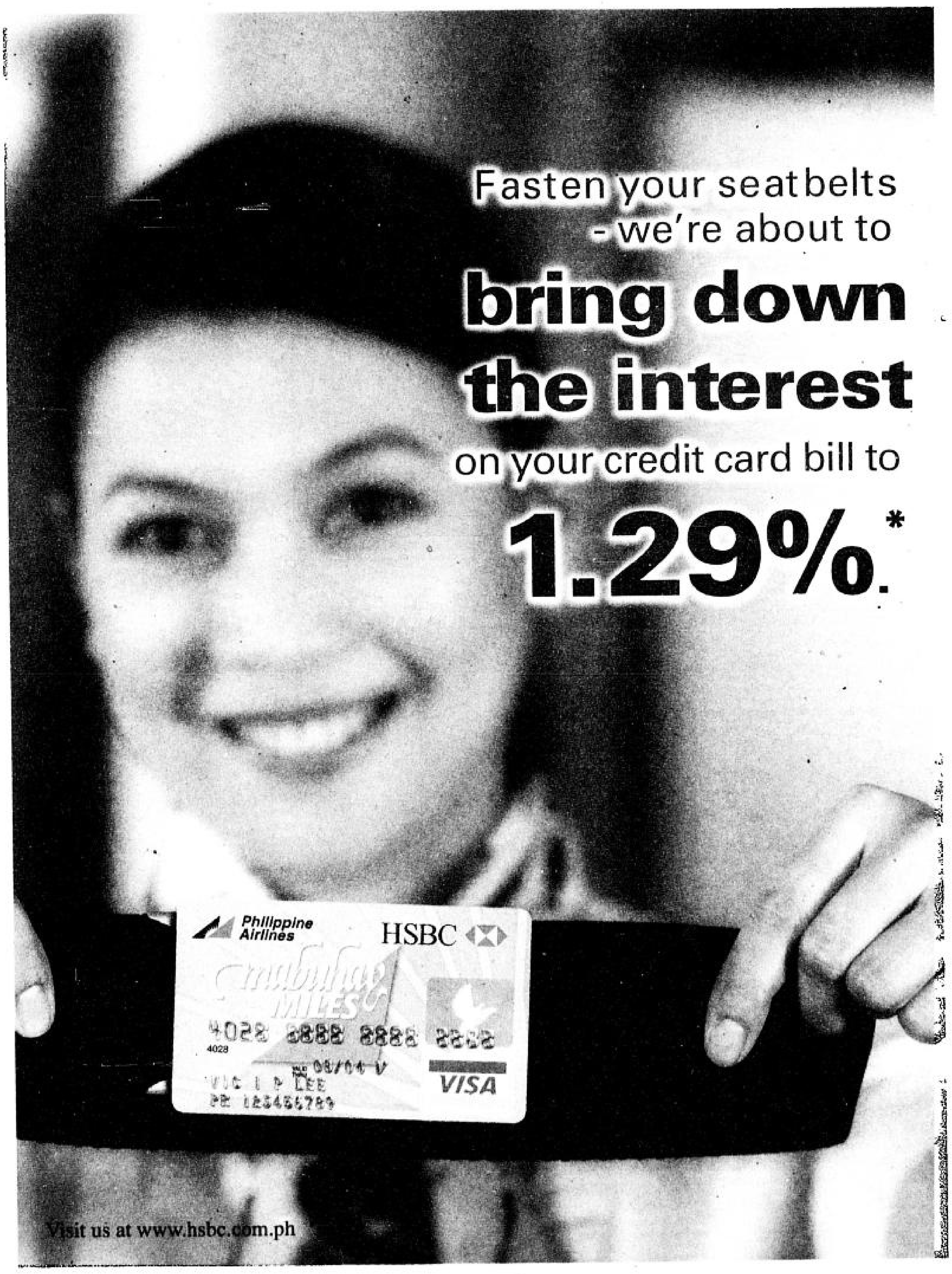
GEN. Sonny Yan, Irene Martel-Francisco and Johnny Litton

Make each moment count

THE NEW Esprit timewear collection is for spring/summer 2003. One of the most successful brands worldwide, Esprit timewear feels a responsibility for delivering the perfect variety of styles to match the fast-paced lifestyle of its international fan base. Business situations, elegant events and casual quality-time demand different states-of-mind and individual outfits. Esprit timewear presents unique watches that make each moment count while expressing a clear and identifiable design statement. It promises a powerful touch of true Esprit—and it delivers better than ever.







Transfer your non-HSBC credit card balance to Mabuhay Miles Visa to save on interest charges and earn FREE flights.

Let the world's local bank give you better savings and the best financial flexibility in town.

- **Save on interest charges** with our lowest add-on rate -- only 1.29% per month.*
- **No fixed monthly payments!** Pay as low as 5% of your outstanding balance transfer amount.
- **No pre-termination charges!**
- **No processing fees.**
- **Earn Bonus Points** on your transferred balance. Convert these to Miles you can use to redeem FREE international or domestic flights on Philippine Airlines.

Hurry! HSBC's Balance Transfer offer runs until **30 April 2003 only.**

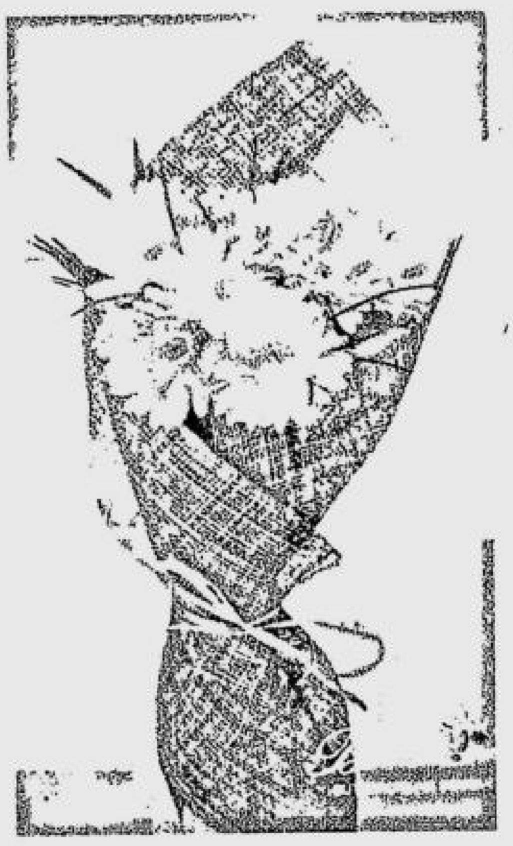
APPLY NOW AND START SAVING! CALL 864-1111.

** The balance transferred from your non-HSBC credit card will be charged an add-on interest rate of 1.29% for a 12-month term (vs. other banks' 1.50% balance transfer offer). Effective revolving interest rate is only 2.28% -- much smaller than your regular interest rate of 3.25%.*

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2139. Series of 2002.

HSBC
The world's local bank

Issued by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited



HAVE YOU ever wished that this Valentine's day, you could send flowers to your loved ones who live across the sea or in far-away provinces?

Raynetworks. Inc. launches Bulaklak.net. (www.bulaklak.net), the newest online flower delivery service provider which offers inter-island delivery of the freshest and beautifully packed flowers that your dear sweetheart will surely love. You can choose from a variety of flowers—rose, gerbera, daisies, lilium, and a lot more. Just use your Visa, MasterCard or American Express credit card to shop for flowers online. You will receive your order exactly the way you see it on the screen, as arranged by veteran florist Wilson "Celso" Quiban. Bulaklak.net's couriers stationed all over the Philippines are ready to deliver your orders at your loved one's doorsteps.

Valentine treats

FRASER Place Serviced Residences offers a Valentine package. Sip cocktails while listening to love songs playing from the suite's state-of-the-art audio equipment. Regale your loved one with a dinner you have prepared in its fully-equipped kitchen. Call 818-1000.

DISCOVERY Suites celebrates the season of hearts with special treats, exquisite food and romantic accommodations. Call 635-2222.

HOLIDAY Inn Resort Clark Field, Pampanga, features an aqua show on the immortal love of Eric and Arielle from "The Little Mermaid" at the Mequeni Café's Poolside. Tickets are inclusive of the dinner buffet, show, wine toast, complimentary portrait and long-stemmed rose. Call 845- 1888 or (045) 599-8000.

FOODPARKS by Raintree showcases movies for free at Food Odyssey, 11/F, LKG Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, every Wednesday of the month. Today, singles will play Singled Out with two celebrity models. Food and Art Galerie at 12/F GT Tower International, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, will have a barbecue party today and a movie night on Feb. 28. Call 752-5681.

Gift for a special woman

ELIZABETH Arden showcases a complete range of fragrance, skincare and cosmetics. For this season of love, Elizabeth Arden offers a free gift for any combination purchase of fragrance, skincare and/or cosmetics amounting to at least P2,500.

The gift is an elegant, black makeup pouch containing a 10-ml Green Tea Scent Spray, a 50-ml Red Door Perfumed Body Lotion, a 50-ml Deep Cleansing Lotion, a 4-ml Good Morning Skin Serum, a 7-ml Good Night's Sleep Restoring Cream, a tube of Exceptional Lipstick and an Arden Beauty Vial.

big R Supercenter

Treat yourself to cool beauty buys at the best price!

Mini Cabinets
P99.00-P169.00

Personal Foot Spa
P899.00

Assorted Face and Bath Towel Sets
P79.00-199.00

Ladies' Shirts with Heart Prints
P79.00-P89.00

Beauty and the BEST

Assorted Pillows
P93.75-P119.25
Reg. Price P125.00-P159.00

Charmee Pantyliners 10's
P29.00
Reg. Price P30.00

Safeguard White
90gm P13.50-135gm P19.90
Reg. Price P14.25-20.95

Babyflo Powder 50gm
P10.00
Reg. Price P10.75

Get a chance to win exciting prizes for every P 75.00 purchase of CLOSE-UP LEMON MINT!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0530 Series of 2003

OPEN DAILY
FROM 7AM TO 10PM
No Membership Required

BRANCHES:
Robinsons Place Novaliches, 1199 Quirino Avenue cor. Maligaya Rd., Novaliches, Q.C. Tel. No.: 938-6805 to 09
Robinsons Metro East, Marcos Highway cor. Imelda Ave., Pasig City Tel. No.: 682-2230 to 37
Robinsons Starmills, Olongapo-Gapan Rd., San Fernando, Pampanga Tel. No.: (045) 875-1935
Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa, Old National Highway, Brgy. Tagapo, Sta. Rosa, Laguna , Tel. No.: (049) 837-4242, (049) 837-4200
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Spending priceless moments together

FOR AN EXTRA special Valentine's Day, MasterCard offers tips on how to celebrate this red-letter day in hassle-free ways.

Plan your special day. Make advance reservations at your favorite restaurant or bar, or book advance tickets to the concert, play or premiere.

Order to-go and feast at home. If all your preferred restaurants are fully booked, order take-out from your partner's favorite restaurant and celebrate in the privacy and comfort of home. Here, you'll be able to treat your partner in a style that is uniquely yours.

Go beyond the ordinary. Flowers, chocolates and fancy dinners are great, but why not go beyond the usual? Treat your beloved to some place uncommon, such as a spa or any health salon where the service personnel are specially trained to pamper. Instead of the usual gifts, you can present a membership to a fitness center or golf club, or even a supplementary credit card for your partner's spending needs.

Stay overnight at a hotel. Leave the kids in good hands for a day or two and check into a hotel. Go for five-star accommodation where luxury and elegance are incomparable. Or drive to affordable resorts and inns in Tagaytay or Antipolo for a truly romantic getaway.

Go stargazing. Nature is the main attraction in this simplest of activities. First, pick up a bottle of wine, cheese, cold cuts and anything that you fancy, then go off the beaten track. A clean and safe park, garden, hilltop or seaside location is a perfect spot. Turn up your favorite romantic song on the car stereo and commune with each other and the scenery.

There are many other wonderful ways to celebrate your love besides the gifts, flowers and restaurants. What is most important is to take time out from your busy schedule and express your love not just on Valentine's Day itself but throughout the year.

Right fit for 'size-challenged' feet

XXTRA shoes at SM Department Stores seeks the liberation of women and ladies with "size-challenged" feet.

The XXtra collection at SM Department stores make the days when "plus-size" ladies sought refuge in discards of foreign brands a thing of the past. Their only choice then was to have their shoes customized. Regular-sized feet truly enjoy the luxury of design selection. Now women with sizes 10-12 can enjoy this, too.

Taking a cue from designers and manufacturers who cater to fashionable men and ladies who also wear the XXX or extra large tag, XXtra shoes not only come in a full range of designs but in various colors and shades as well: beige, blue, black, white, camel and pastel hues.

Promo raffles off house and lot

AFTER giving away three house and lot packages last holiday season, Robinsons Department Store (RDS) again raffles off a house and lot unit at South Square Village in Cavite City as part of its "Home Sale" promotion.

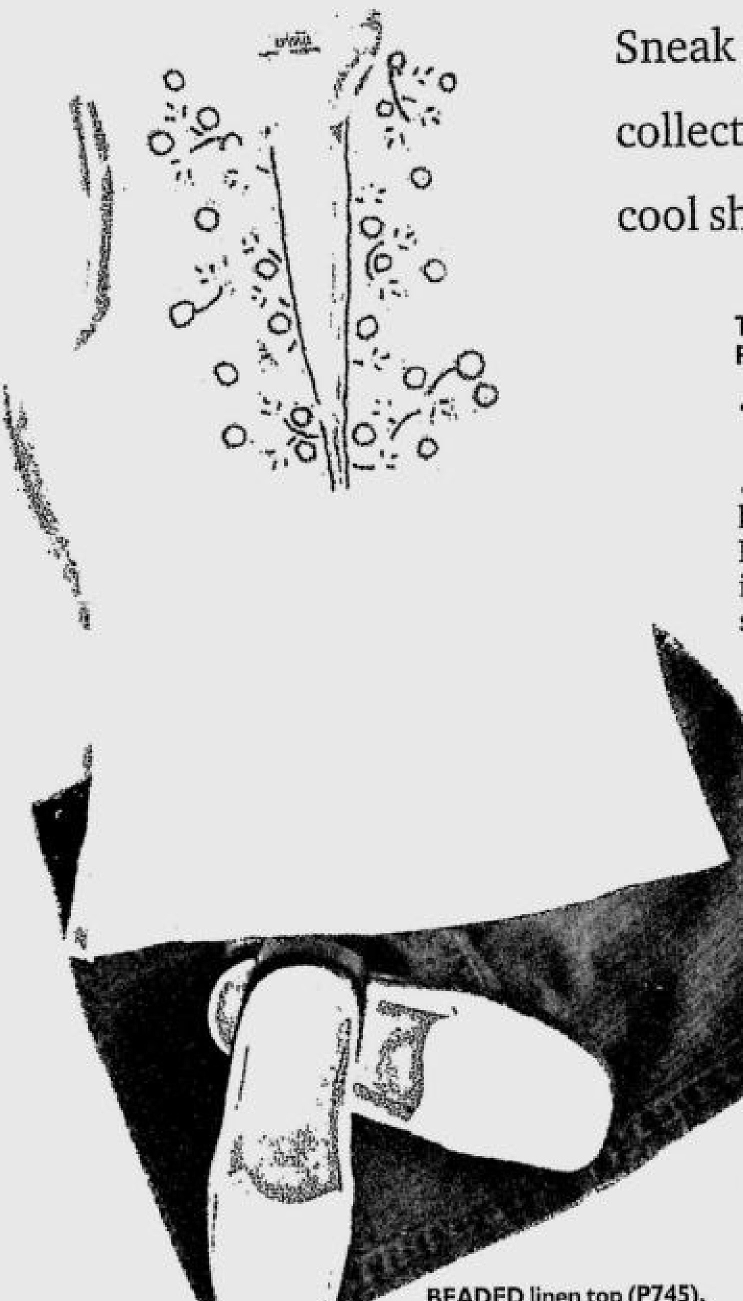
Customers who shop from today until Feb. 27 at RDS will not just be entitled to discounts of up to 50 percent on a wide selection of home items, but will also get one raffle coupon for every P200 purchase.

The winner will be drawn on March 12.

RDS is located at Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Novaliches, Imus, Cebu, Sta. Rosa, Bacolod, and Iloilo; Robinsons Metro East, Robinsons Starmills Pampanga, Robinsons Town Mall Los Baños, Tutuban Center, Starmall Shaw, Metropolis Star Alabang; and Waltermart Sta. Rosa and Gen. Trias.

For feedback, text us at (0919)880-33-54 or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
LIFESTYLE
Trend Spotting

Bayo rhythms for hot summer days



BEADED linen top (P745), denim miniskirt (P745) and white patent loafers (P1,125)

Sneak peek into the new collection reveals stark whites, cool shorts and mini skirts

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Chito Vecina

IT'S Valentine's Day today and you probably haven't noticed the frigid air, what with your honey's arms wrapped around you. But before you know it—boom!—the toasty days of summer are here again. That means it's time to scout for a hot set of bikinis for the long-awaited rendezvous with the white sands of Boracay.

Ooops! Not so fast, though. You'll probably be lying on the beach for only a few days, or a week at best. For most of the summer holidays, you'll be stuck in the scorching concrete jungle that is the metro. Your warm threads from cold December will not do in the sweltering heat. Imagine you're a cone of ice cream—yum!—but melting like sticky goo under the hot sun? Really, not a very pretty sight.

Now's the time to update your summer wardrobe. If you're poised to battle your way through the city heat, you might as well arm yourself with the coolest gear.

Bayo gives you an exclusive sneak peek into its collection for summer. Truly, clothes are the ultimate equalizers. Now women don't have to be Lea Salonga to wear her

BAYO/K2

Romantic
Engagements
at
THE PODIUM

Feb 14 • 8 pm • An evening of Romance and Elegance with Manila Philharmonic Orchestra (30 piece orchestra)
Feb 15 • 8 pm • A celebration of Love with Nolyn Cabahug (Tenor) & Rachelle Gerodias (Soprano)
Feb 16 • 6 pm • Acoustic Romance with Jong Cuenco (Flutist) & Romy Joloran (Vocalist/Guitarist)
Feb 28 • 8 pm • Jazz Evening of Love with Tots Tolentino (Saxophonist)

THE
PODIUM
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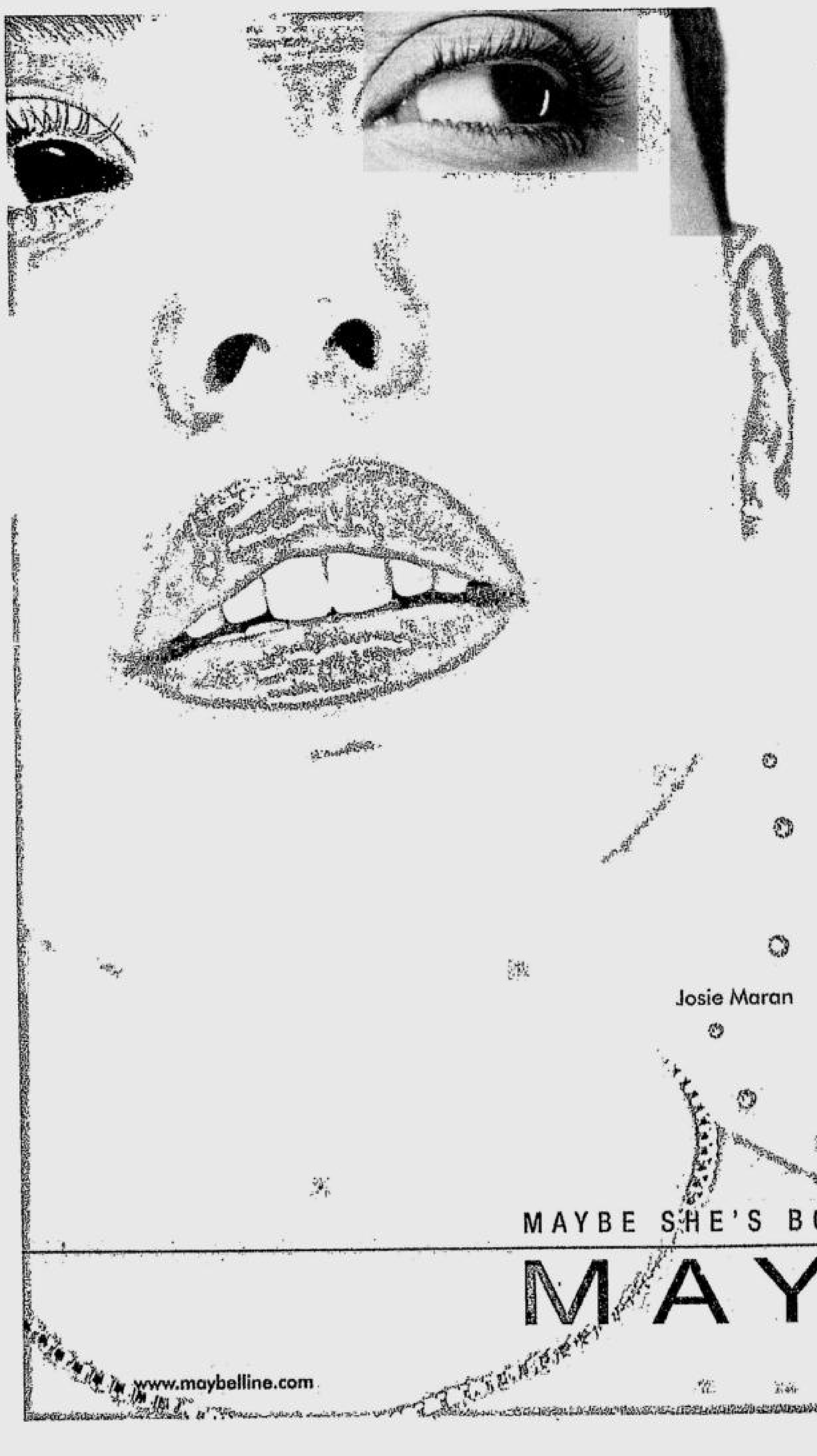

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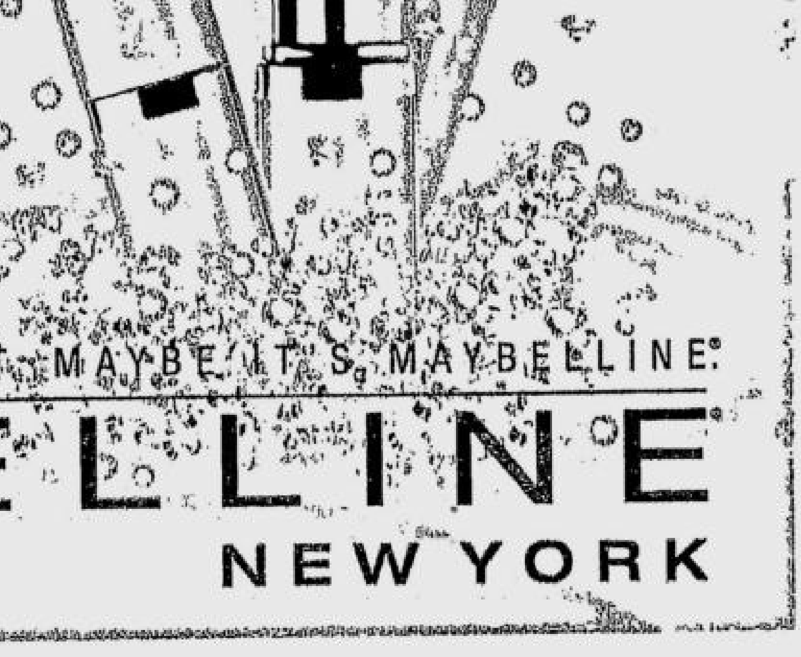
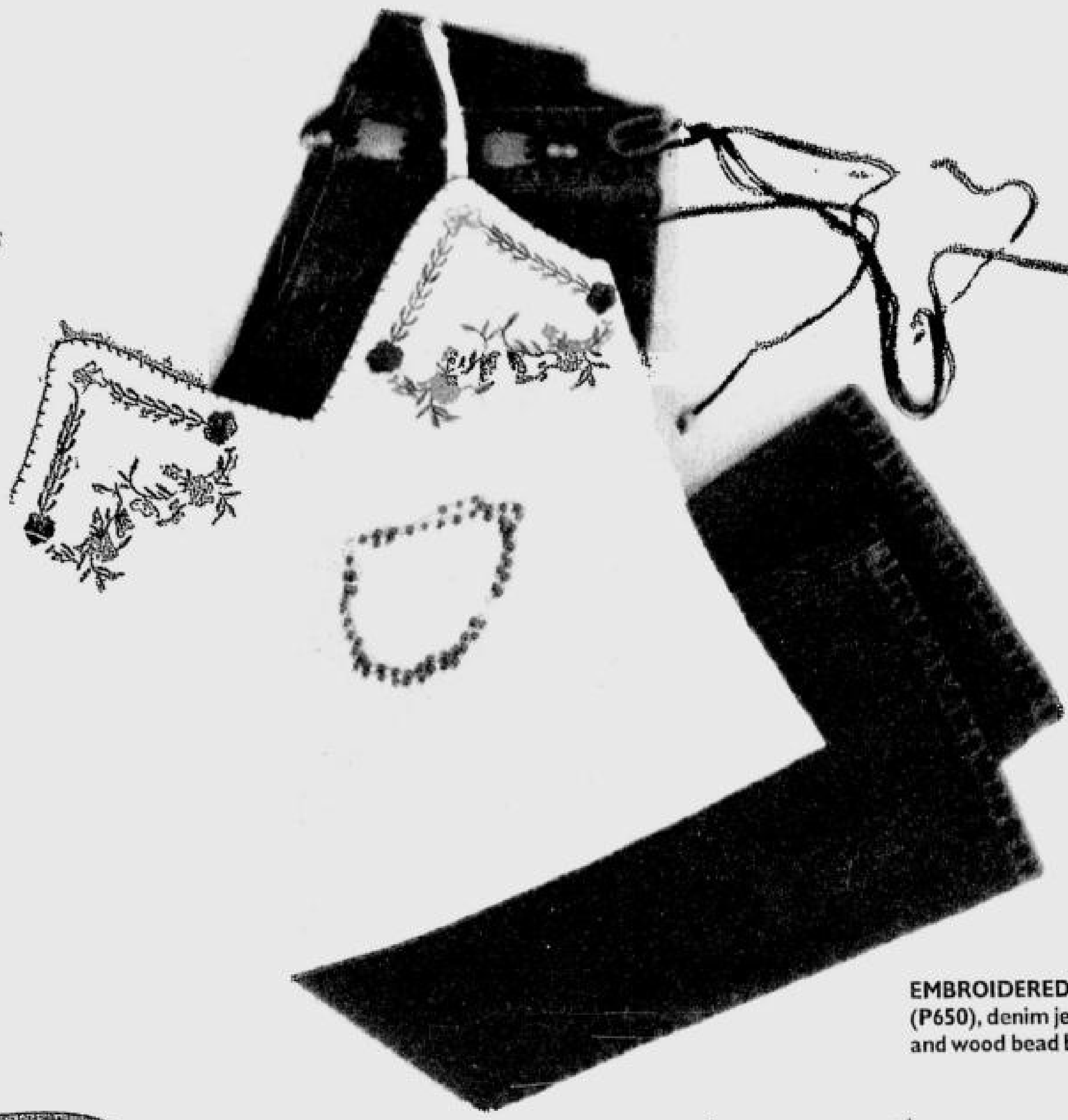




EMBROIDERED top (P650), denim jeans (P945) and wood bead belt (P285)

CAP-SLEEVED blouse with stitching (P645), denim jeans (P945), tan belt (P350) and sneakers (P675)

Bayo rhythms for hot summ

From page K1

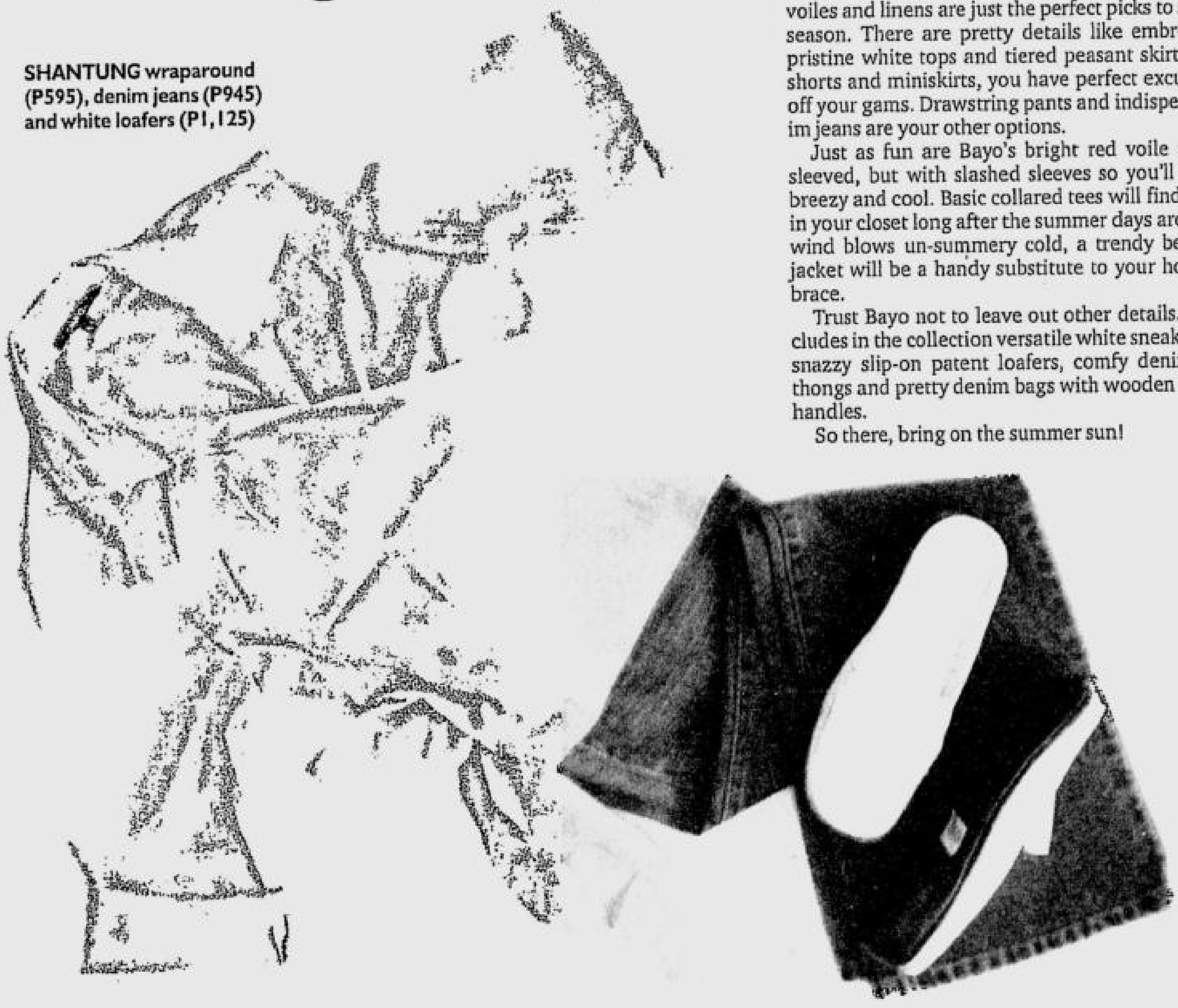
clothes—in summertime and beyond.

White and pink pieces in cool fabrics like cottons, voiles and linens are just the perfect picks to start off the season. There are pretty details like embroideries on pristine white tops and tiered peasant skirts. With hot shorts and miniskirts, you have perfect excuse to show off your gams. Drawstring pants and indispensable denim jeans are your other options.

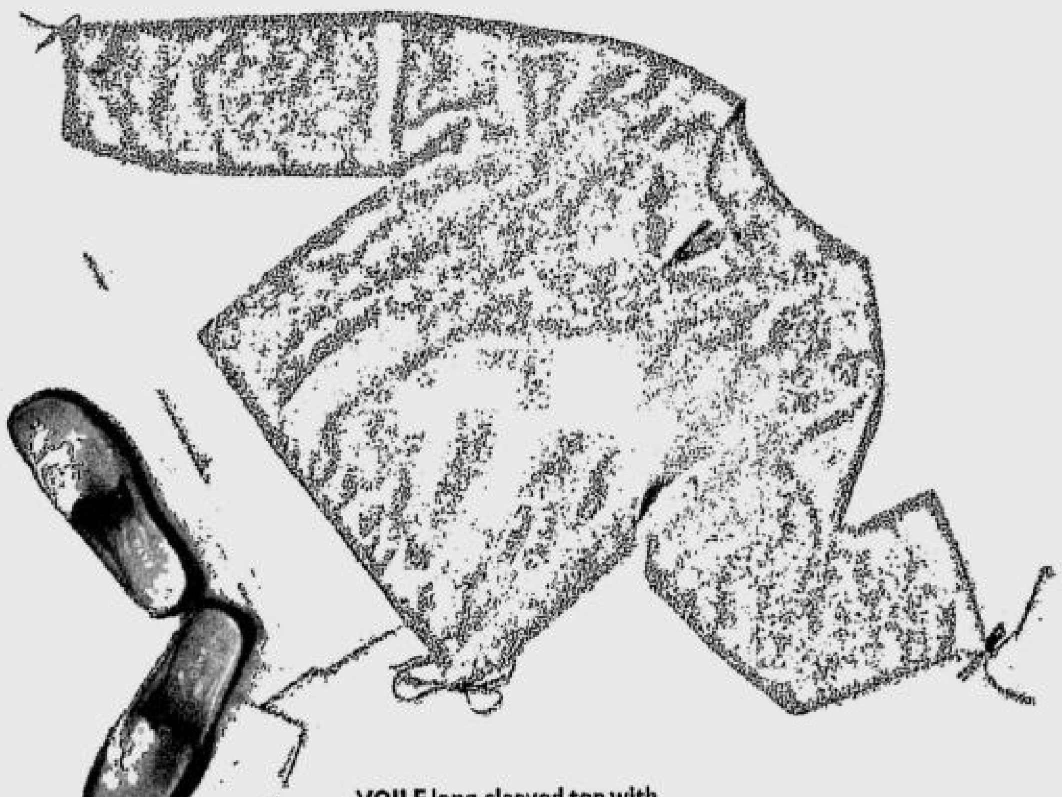
Just as fun are Bayo's bright red voile tops—long-sleeved, but with slashed sleeves so you'll feel just as breezy and cool. Basic collared tees will find prime spot in your closet long after the summer days are over. If the wind blows un-summery cold, a trendy belted denim jacket will be a handy substitute to your honey's embrace.

Trust Bayo not to leave out other details. It includes in the collection versatile white sneakers, snazzy slip-on patent loafers, comfy denim thongs and pretty denim bags with wooden handles.

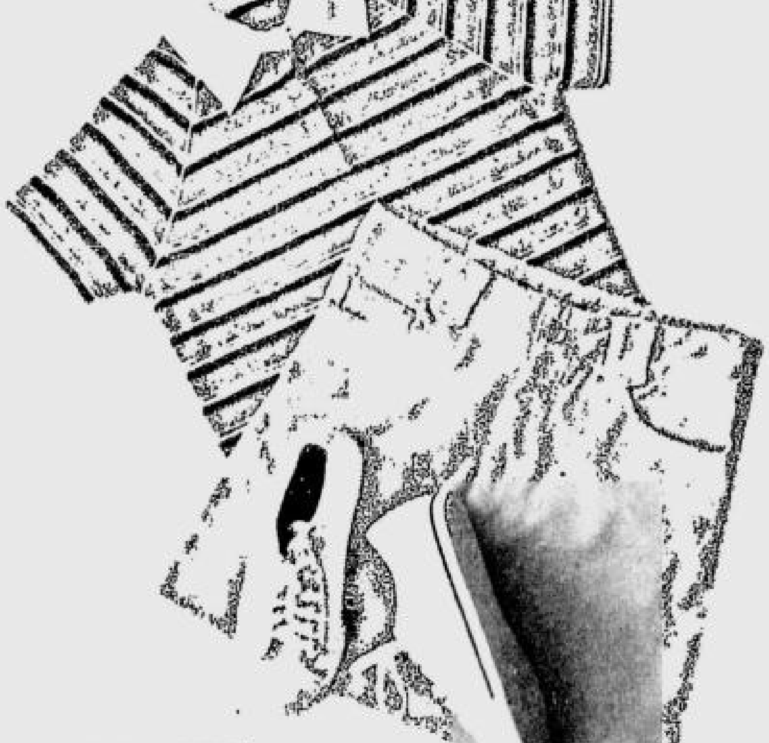
So there, bring on the summer sun!



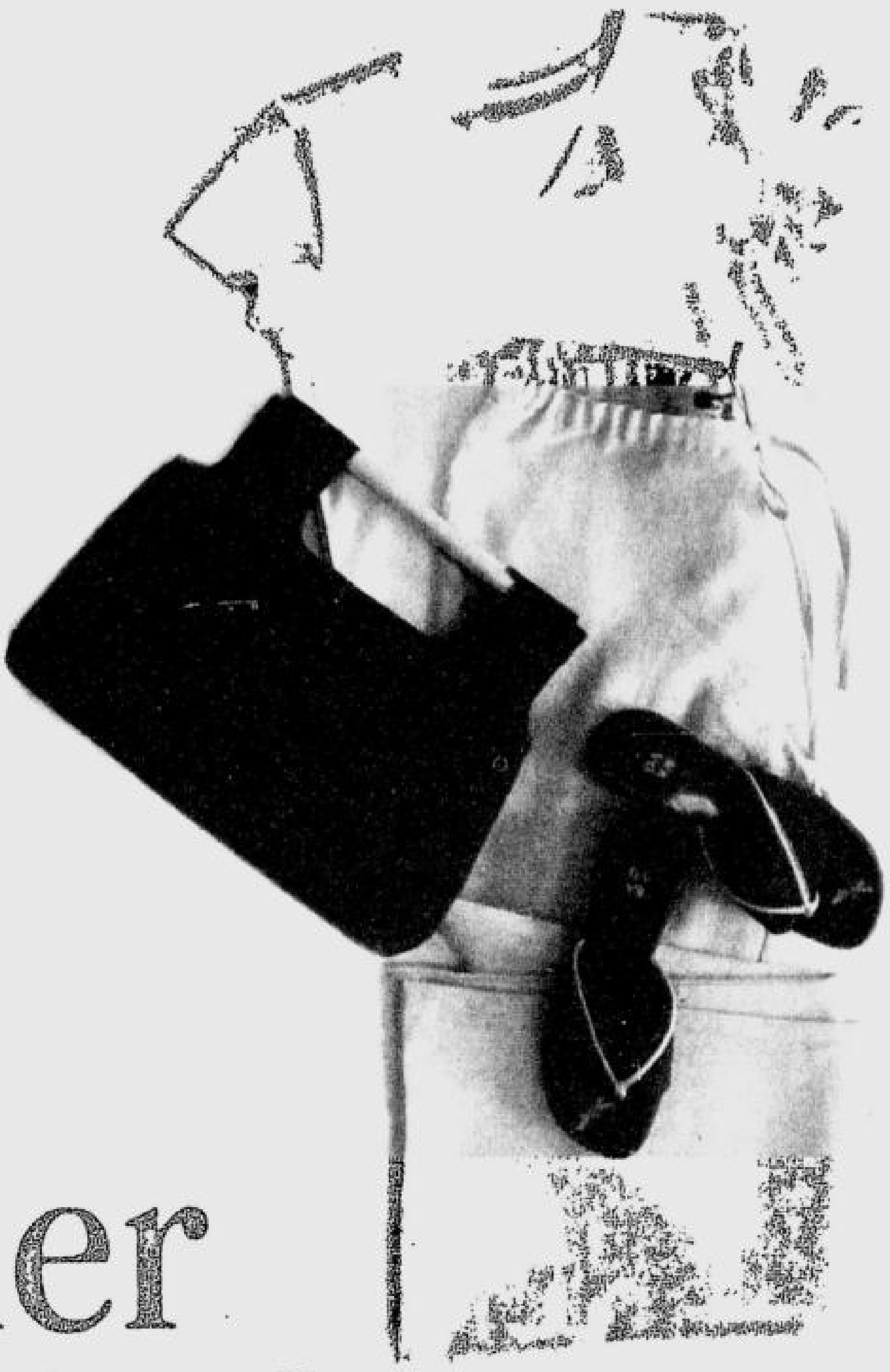
SHANTUNG wraparound (P595), denim jeans (P945) and white loafers (P1,125)



VOILE long-sleeved top with sleeve slits (P645), white pants (P899) and red patent loafers (P1,125)



STRIPED tee (P465), corduroy miniskirt (P645) and white sneakers (P675)



LINEN drawstring pants (P875), V-neck Spandex tee (P395) denim thongs (P999) and denim bag with wooden handle (P575)

PINK V-neck tee (P395), corduroy pants (P795), belted denim jacket (P850), beige patent loafers (P1,125) and necklace (350)

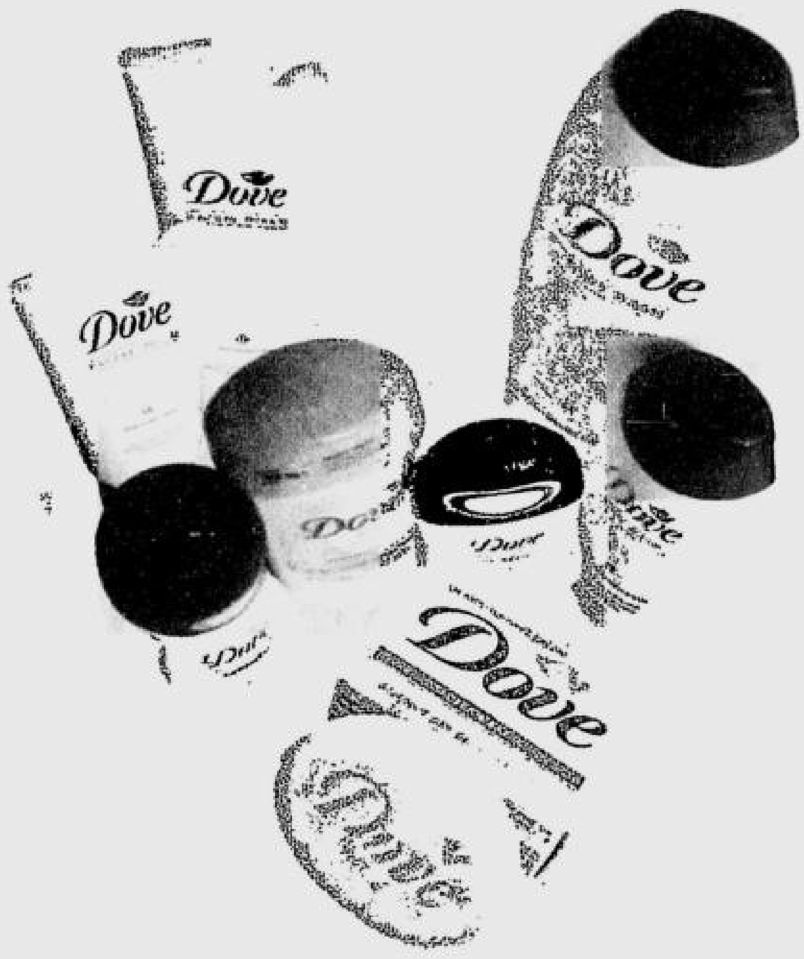
ner
lays

BELL-SLEEVED blouse with emboidery (P750), denim shorts (P645), white sneakers (P675) denim bag with wooden handle (P795) and necklace

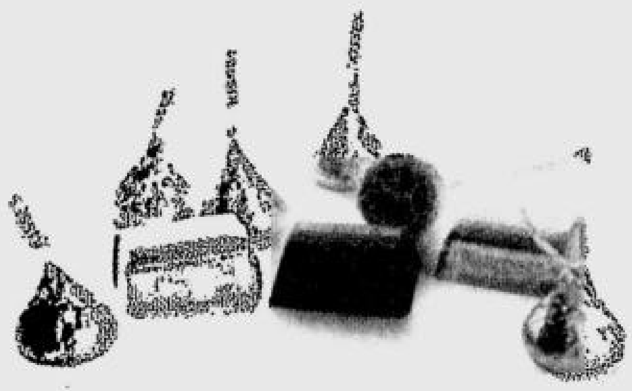
'EASANT skirt (P875), V-neck ee (P395) denim jacket P1,150), sneakers (P675) and ecklace (P350)

QUE HAS BRANCHES AT ALL SM, ROBINSONS, AYALA AND STA. LUCIA MALLS

Love Dove?



Love this.



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Per DOH-BFAD Permit # 0125, Series of 2003

It's for kids, too

WHO says Valentine's Day is for lovers only? Children likewise deserve to be part of the celebration of the hearts. In fact, the Children's Hour is using this opportunity to get additional funding to support its children and youth causes.

Children's Hour is a global fund-raising campaign that calls on individuals and companies to donate one hour's worth of their earnings for programs dedicated to children and youth.

It was launched in the country in 1999 and again this year to champion the cause for millions of Filipino children in need.

To date, Children's Hour in the Philippines has raised about P40 million from donations given by companies, employees and private individuals.

The fund is invested in carefully selected projects addressing child abuse and deprivation, as well as health care and education programs.

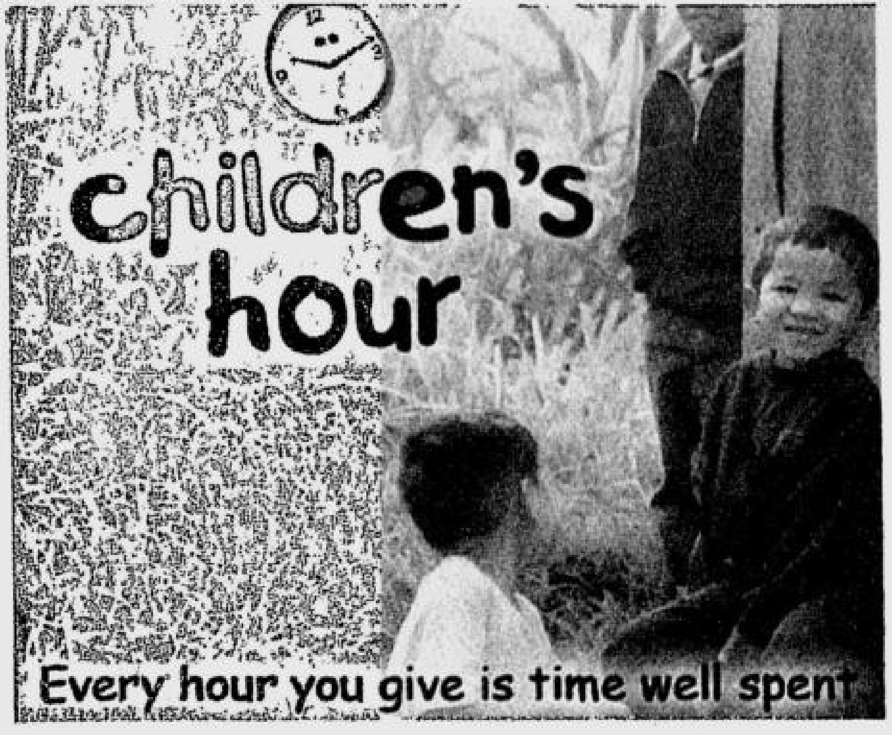
On Valentine's weekend, several restaurants have generously agreed to donate part of their proceeds for the benefit of Children's Hour. Milkyway Café will give 20 percent of its sales to the cause.

About 5 percent of the sales of Cork Wine Cellar and Grill (Rockwell and ABS-CBN), Magnum Wine Cellar and Grill (Greenbelt), Beluga Bistro and Pravda Wine Bar will also be given to the Children's Hour.

Until Feb. 15, Burgoo (all branches) will pledge a percentage of its sales to the cause, as well as Cibo (all branches), Café Bola (Araneta Center), Mangan (all branches), Kitchen (all branches), Ebun (Greenbelt), Figaro (Powerplant Mall, Rockwell) and Cafe Havana (Greenbelt).

For inquiries, call 894-5620/1663, fax 813-4487 or e-mail childrenshour@ayala.com.ph.

Visit its website at www.childrenshour.tk.


children's hour
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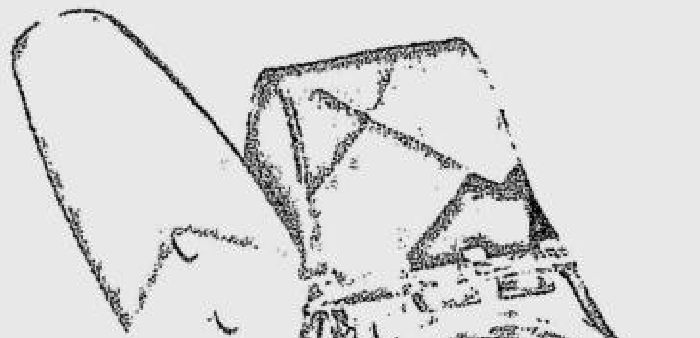

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LIFESTYLE

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BICUTAN

The rhyme and reason of gems

Text by Cathy Babao Guballa
Photos by Mike Alquinto

NATIVE American cultures considered the red jasper as the blood of the earth. Among semiprecious stones, it is thought to be the best stone for connecting with the deep, stabilizing energies of the earth.

Considered to be an emotionally calming stone, the jasper is also a very good stone to use when someone is upset and needs to be calmed down.

Maricris de Vera and Ica Sebastian are enterprising women with a passion. Friends for close to two decades, they were once expatriate wives based in Hong Kong exposed to the trappings of wealth and power.

They also both like to work with their hands, fashioning semiprecious stones into fabulous bracelets and neck pieces that exude elegance and evoke passion. These pieces now make their home in a quiet corner of the Power Plant, in a store called The Red Jasper.

"Creating these pieces is great therapy for me," Maricris says. "On a day when my creative juices are at their peak I can create 50 bracelets within a 24-hour period. On a slow day, four is about as high as I go," she laughs.

Whereas Maricris finds the art a calming one, Ica creates pieces to satisfy her artistic passion. "I draw inspiration from the colors and energy that the stones give," she says.

The ladies have close friends who act as critics. "We like to create pieces that we ourselves would wear," says Maricris, "and we will not sacrifice quality. We're very particular about quality control."

The pieces at The Red Jasper are one of a kind. "We never repeat designs. Each one is different and you can be assured that no two pieces are exactly alike," Maricris says.

The stones used in the pieces come from all over. "We have handmade silver from Bali, Afghanistan jade, amber and cloissone from China and rose quartz from Bangkok, to name a few," Maricris says.

"Real semiprecious stones have weight and are cool to the touch," Maricris adds. "You may get cheaper stones elsewhere but you cannot be assured of the quality and the authenticity. Take, for example, real amber. When you burn it, the plastic ones will naturally melt, but real amber will just give off a particular smell."

Specific colors also have corresponding meanings—this is taken into consideration when creating the pieces.

"Certain colors give off specific effects and these colors also correspond to different parts of the body," Maricris explains.

Holistic health

In holistic health, the term often used is chakra, which in Sanskrit means wheel. The body they say has seven chakras and in order for someone to function well, all the seven chakras need to be balanced. Otherwise, the individual may feel listless, tired or out of sorts.

Even one's thought processes and emotions are said to be affected when the chakras are, so to speak, not in harmony.

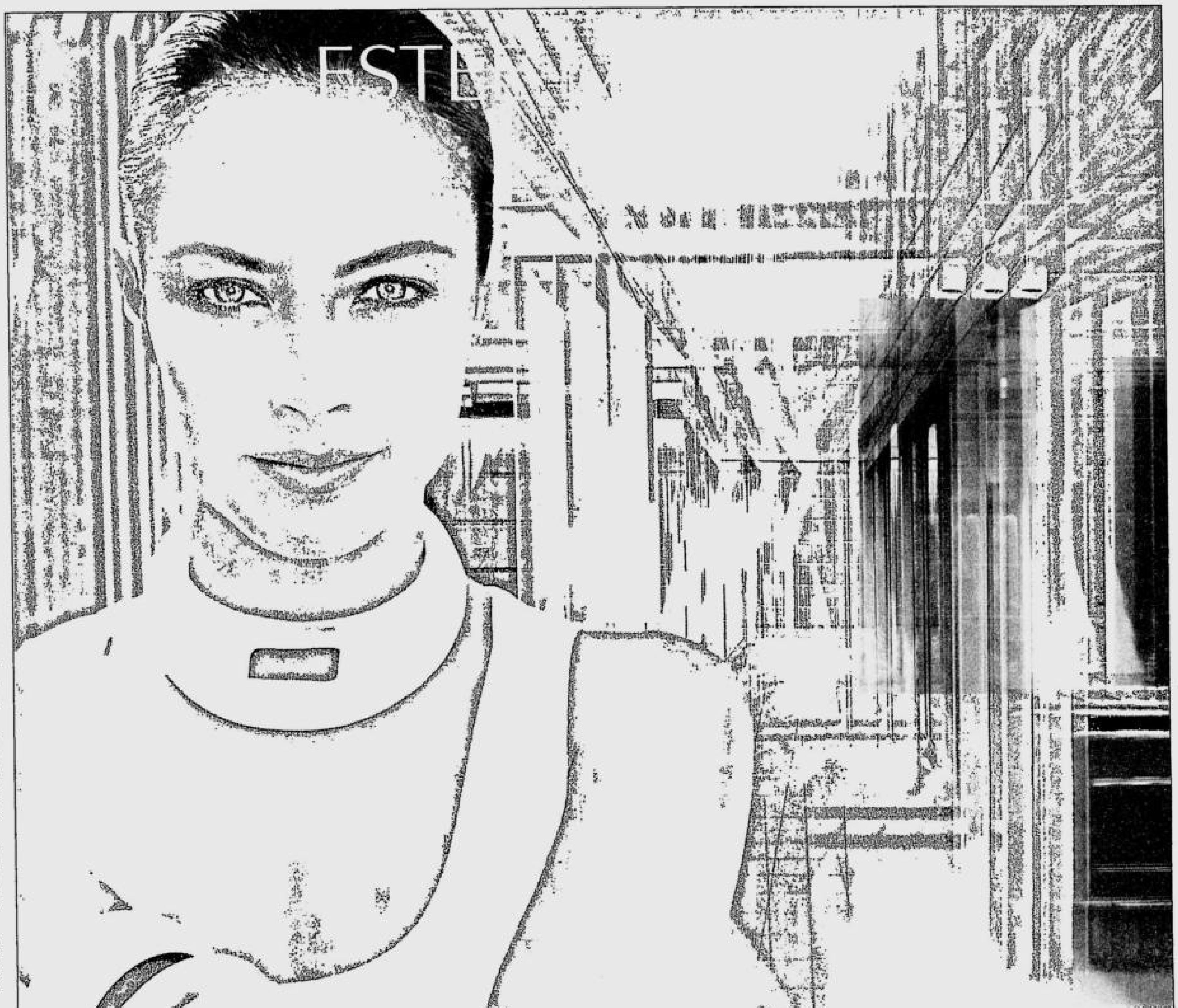
Thus, Maricris and Ica explain, the combination of colors in creating the pieces is something that not only has to be aesthetically appealing, but also symbolical.

Red, which corresponds to the base of the spine that is the first chakra, evokes courage. Stones that are believed to help attain balance in this area are garnet, smoky quartz and black tourmaline.

Orange, which is the color of the second chakra, representing the sacrum, seat of creativity, intuition and self-worth are best represented by carnelian agate and Tiger's eye.

Yellow is the color of the third chakra, referred to as the solar plexus that is believed to be the center of the ego, passions, anger and strength. The color stimulates creativity and

THE RHYME/ L2



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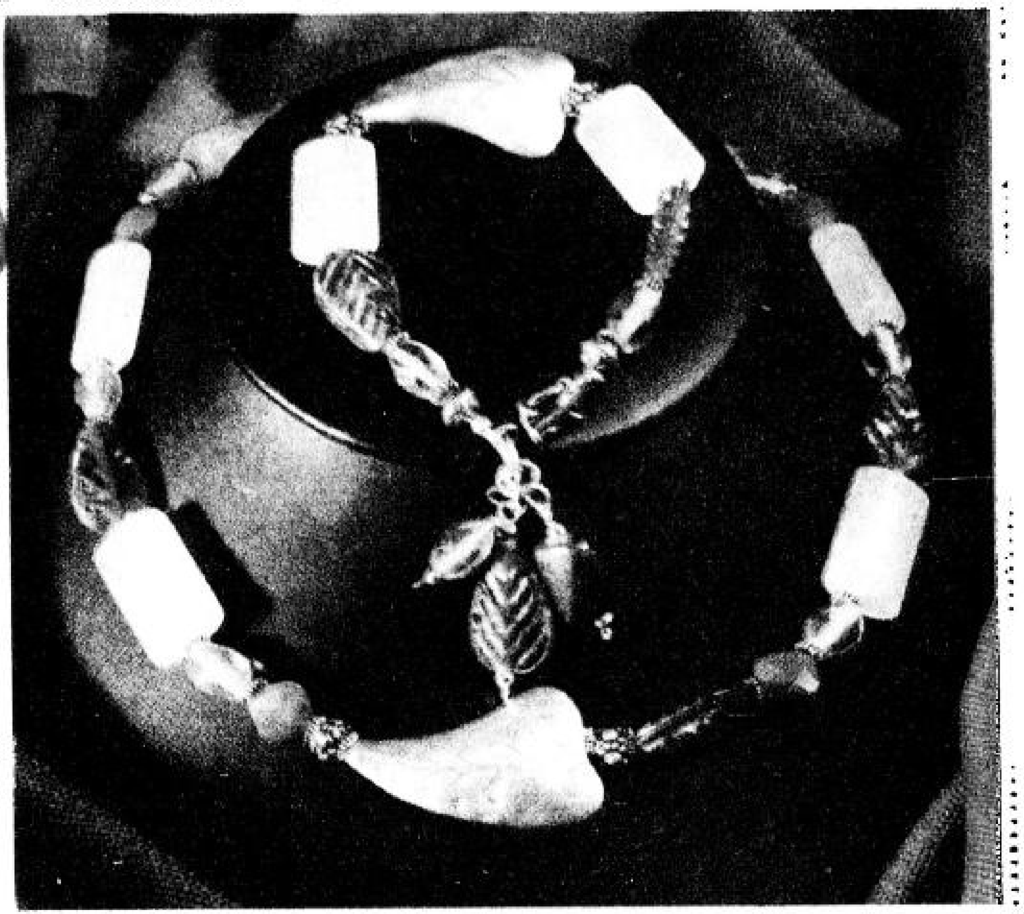
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0266 Series of 2003

BAUBLES OF COURAGE. Bamboo coral and silver beads from India



PURITY. Necklace and bracelet with rose quartz stones

The rhyme and reason of gems

From page E1

increases energy and is best represented by the stones citrine and topaz.

The fourth chakra, which is the heart, is represented by green, a soothing and healing color. Rose quartz, Kunzite and watermelon tourmaline are some of the gemstones that are believed to be good for this chakra.

Blue corresponds to the fifth chakra, which is connected to the throat, the center of communication and expression, speech and writing. Its gemstones are aquamarine and azurite.

The top of the head is the sixth chakra, which is believed to be the center for higher intuition and represented by the color violet. Amethyst and lapis lazuli are thought to be best for creating balance in this area.

The crown, which is the seventh chakra, is the center of spirituality and enlightenment. Those with chronic migraine headaches and fits of depression would probably benefit from using white or purple, colors associated with purity and comfort and represented by such stones as quartz crystal and amethyst.

However, Maricris and Ica stress that knowing the meanings behind the colors and what effects they represent is just additional knowledge. "You don't have to believe them, it just makes for interesting information," Maricris says.

The beautiful pieces have made their way to Jakarta, San Francisco, Davao and Bacolod. And judging by the ladies who come to their shop, whether they need some chakra balancing or not, the semiprecious baubles definitely add a lot more color and passion to whatever state of mind or body the patrons may be in.

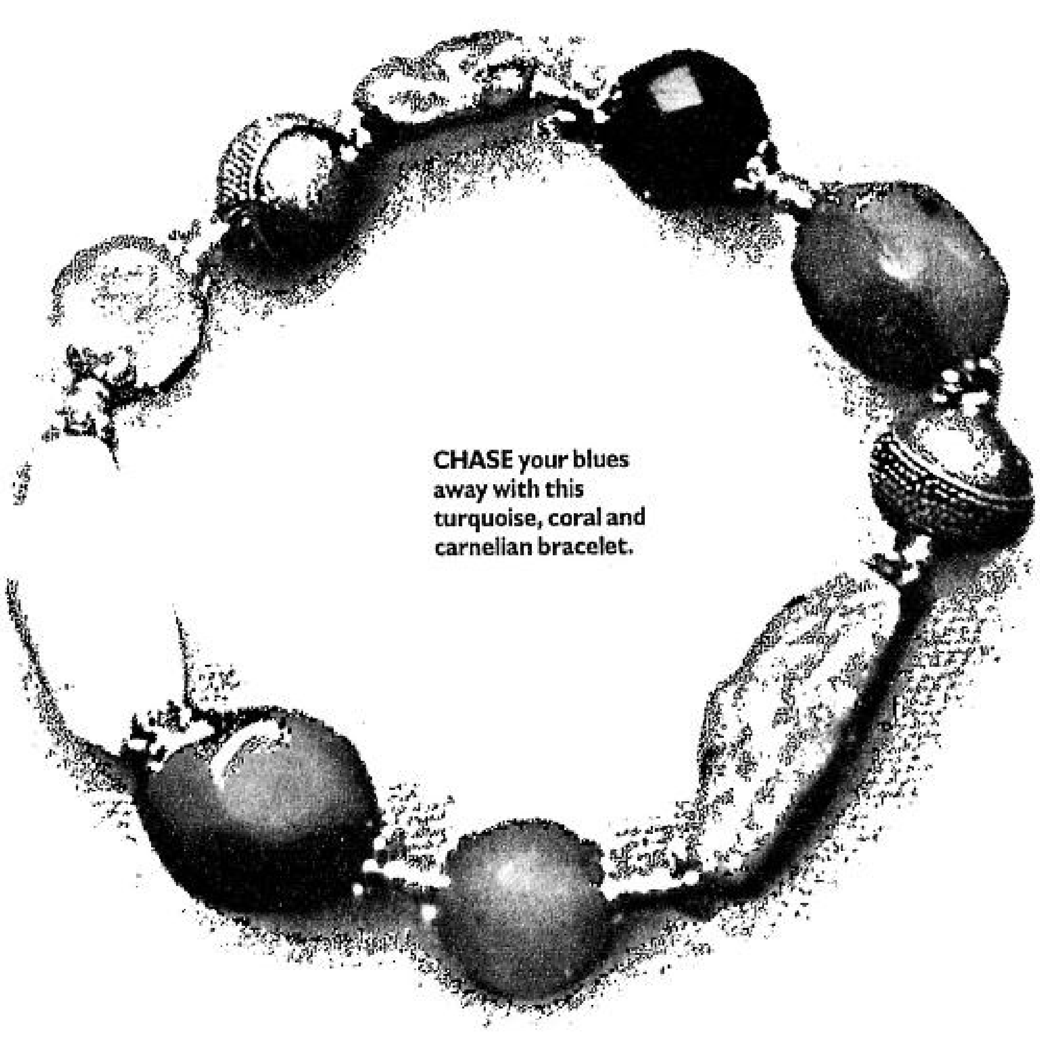
The Red Jasper is located on the ground floor of the Lifestyles section at the Power Plant in Rockwell.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

CREATIVE. Neckpiece with coral, amber and silver

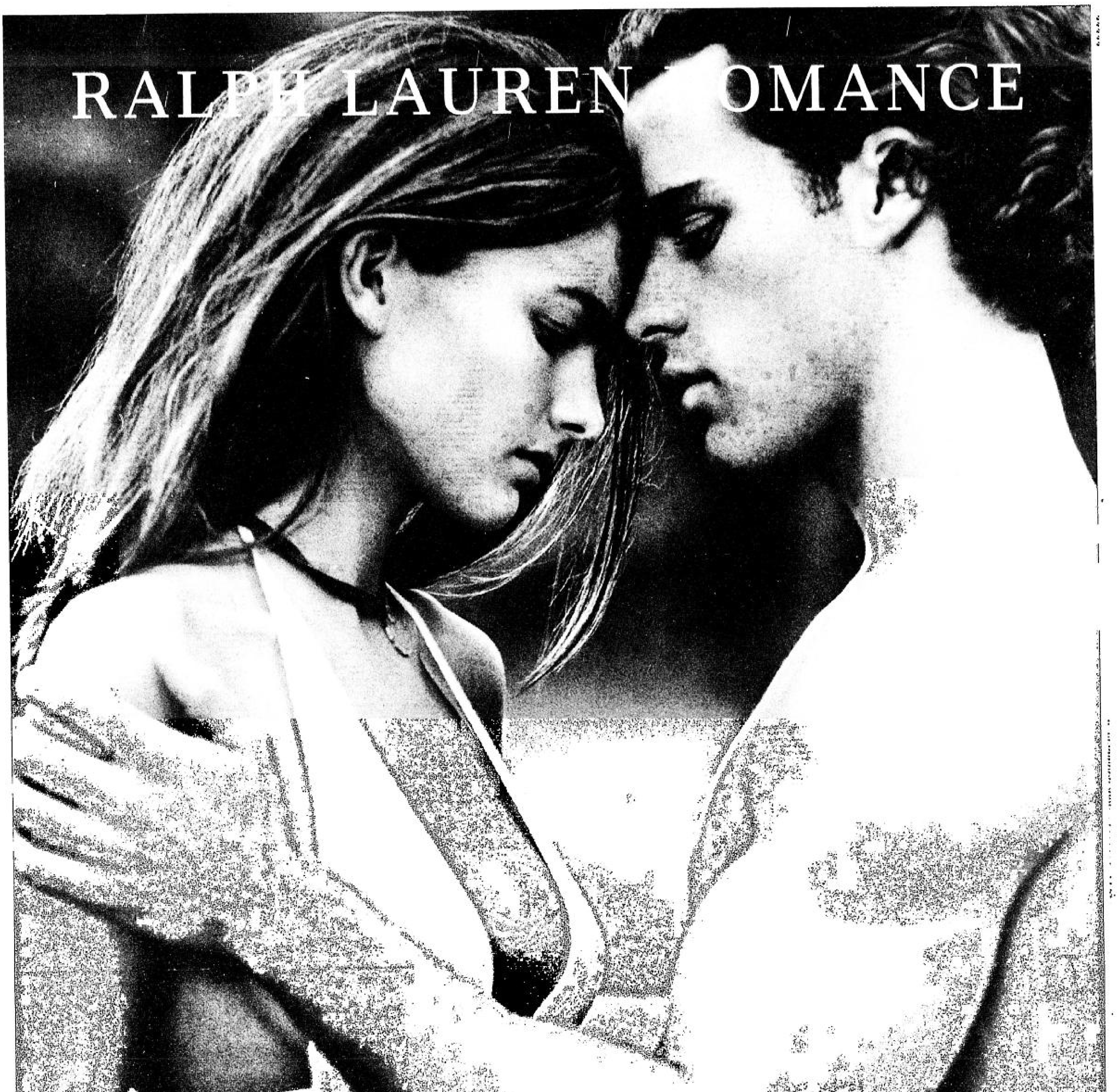
> The Red Jasper is the house of holistic gemology: each stone or color corresponds to a concept of well-being

RED AND BLUE. Coral and turquoise set



CHASE your blues away with this turquoise, coral and carnelian bracelet.

ELEGANT. Rose quartz pendant and bracelet


RALPH LAUREN ROMANCE
ROMANCE
ROMANCE
FRAGRANCES FOR MEN AND FOR WOMEN

Innovative jeans are still about self-expression

Text by Allison Lopez
Photos by Roger Carpio

Levi's has just unleashed the perfect antidote to a ho-hum wardrobe.

"Relentless innovation is part of Levi's DNA," says John Anderson, president of Levi Strauss Asia-Pacific division in Singapore, during the launch of the Type 1 Jeans.

Innovative yet trademark Levi's, Type 1 has sharper pocket edges and deeper trademark arcs to distinguish it from its predecessors. Levi's distinguishing marks or "icon"—the rivets, Red Tab, leather patch, arcuate stitching, threads and button—have all been enlarged, making a bold fashion statement that will definitely draw attention to itself and the wearer.

ARE YOU TYPE 1? The bold and the beautiful faces of Type 1

Steve Romasanta, Levi's Philippines brand leader, says, "The design team spent six months looking for the perfect inspiration for jeans that would once again define the way young people wear denim. And they found it right here in our trademark iconography."

The design team looked for inspiration for jeans that would once again define the way young people wore denim

Levi's celebrates its 130th year with this welcome exaggeration of its iconic elements. "It is a celebration of everything that Levi's is," Romasanta says.

Unique

And what a celebration the launch was! At the Tavern on the Square in Greenbelt, the show began on a unique note with human beat box DJ Mike rousing the audience with his own beat, and a poetry reading by Palanca winner Nerisa del Carmen Guevara. The performances gave the audience an idea of what to expect from Type 1.

Smoke filled the air as the Type 1 models emerged from the glass panels of a Levi's "boutique." One by one, rocker chicks, punks, drag queens, fashionistas and funky characters tried to define Type 1's main symptom—individuality. Each wore her Type 1 Jeans, jackets and skirts in every which way—adapted to each one's personality, style and comfort.

Romasanta says Type 1 is all about self-expression and self-confidence, which characterized the Levi's brand. Type 1 Jeans are for those who dare express themselves.

Typifying Type 1 for Asia are Japanese models Mitsuki Koga and Sakato Kayo. In the ads, Koga sports an unfinished tattoo on his chest, his skin raw, while Kayo clutches an electric razor in her hand, her head shaved. The two images fit perfectly Type 1's rebellious nature.

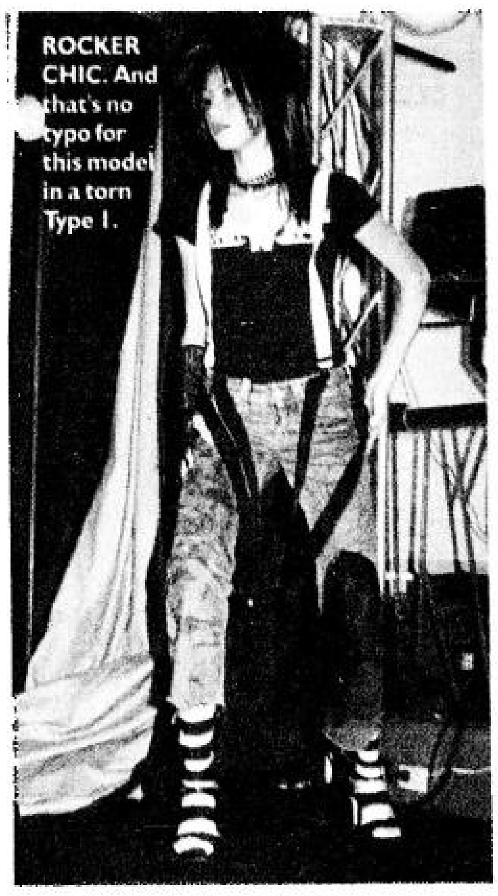
Improved fit

Aside from a fresh depiction of its icons, Levi's adds a wonderful twist to Type 1—a new fit. With a tilted waist featuring high back and low front, the new fit creates a V shape around the waist from back to front. The fit of jeans that are lower on the hip, which usually becomes quite a hassle as it goes really low at the back, dramatically improves.

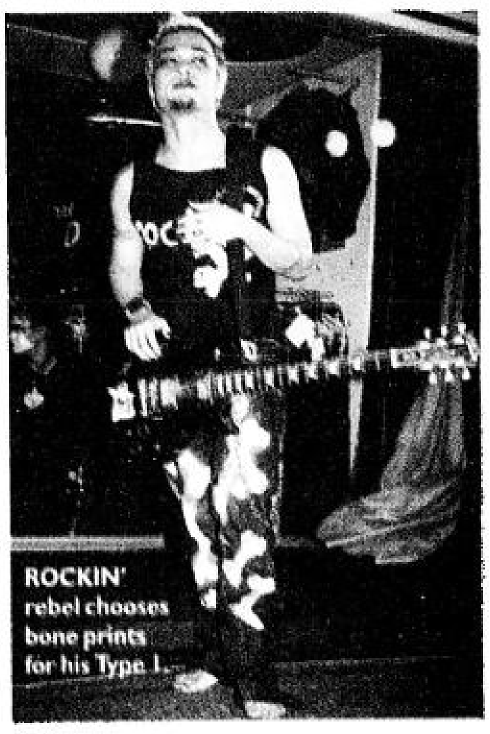
The V shape in front projects a slimmer figure on the waistline.

"They provide a sexy and flattering fit for girls, and a rebellious yet tough look for guys. Form and function combine to offer a unique style. The low front and the high back, key features of the new jeans, give the wearer a comfortable yet incredibly stylish look," Romasanta says.

He adds the fits are especially developed for the Asian figures following extensive testing in various markets. The result is a range of fits and styles, from standard to slim, loose, boot cut and wide flares. Also in the collection are T-shirts, woven shirts, jackets and skirts.



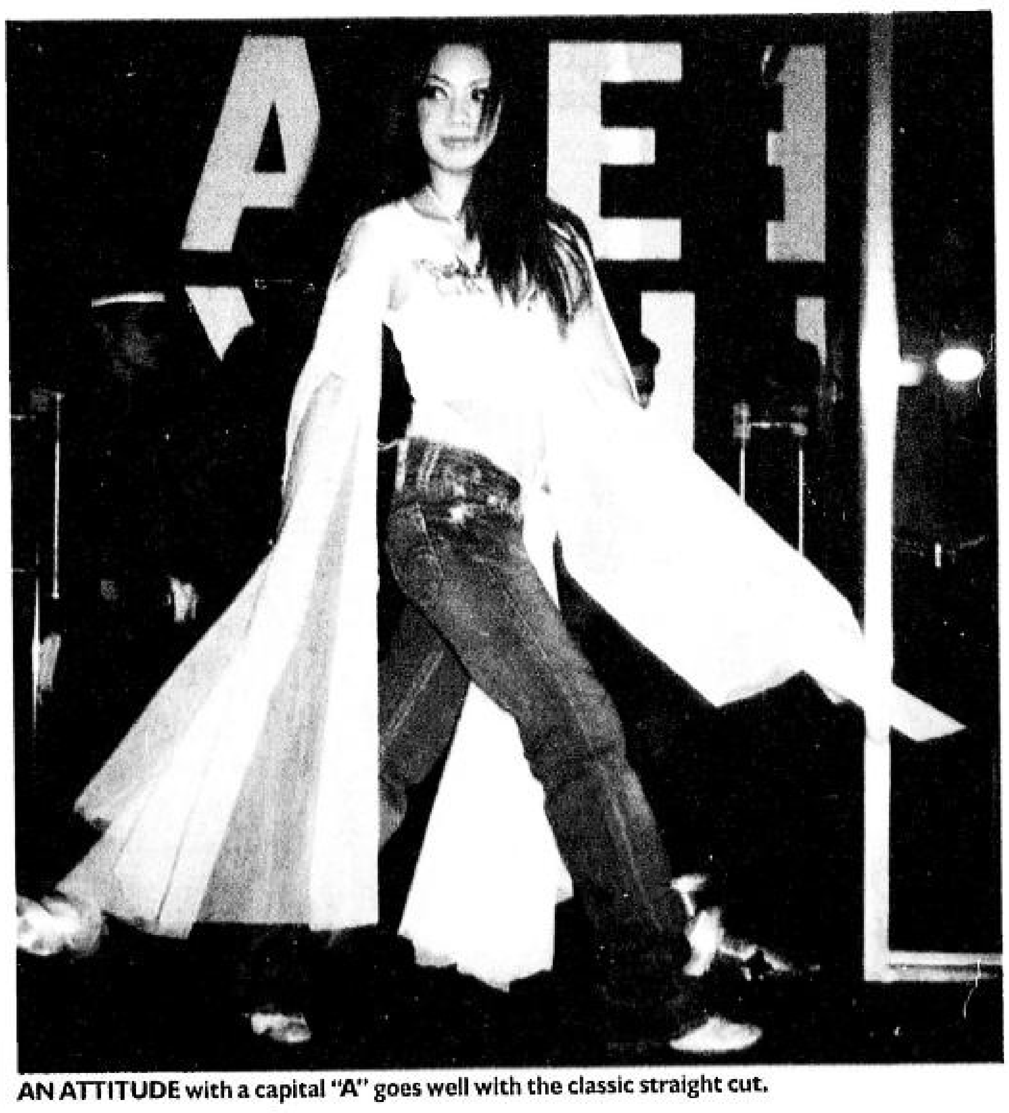
ROCKER CHIC. And that's no typo for this model in a torn Type 1.



ROCKIN' rebel chooses bone prints for his Type 1.

The Type 1 Jeans come two years after Levi's Engineered Jeans. The red cast denim, developed especially for the new jeans, was selected from over 50 prototypes and resulted from today's best denim fabric technology.

With the Engineered Jeans contributing 10 percent to overall total sales in Europe and Asia, Levi's hoped Type 1 would matching or surpass the figure.



AN ATTITUDE with a capital "A" goes well with the classic straight cut.

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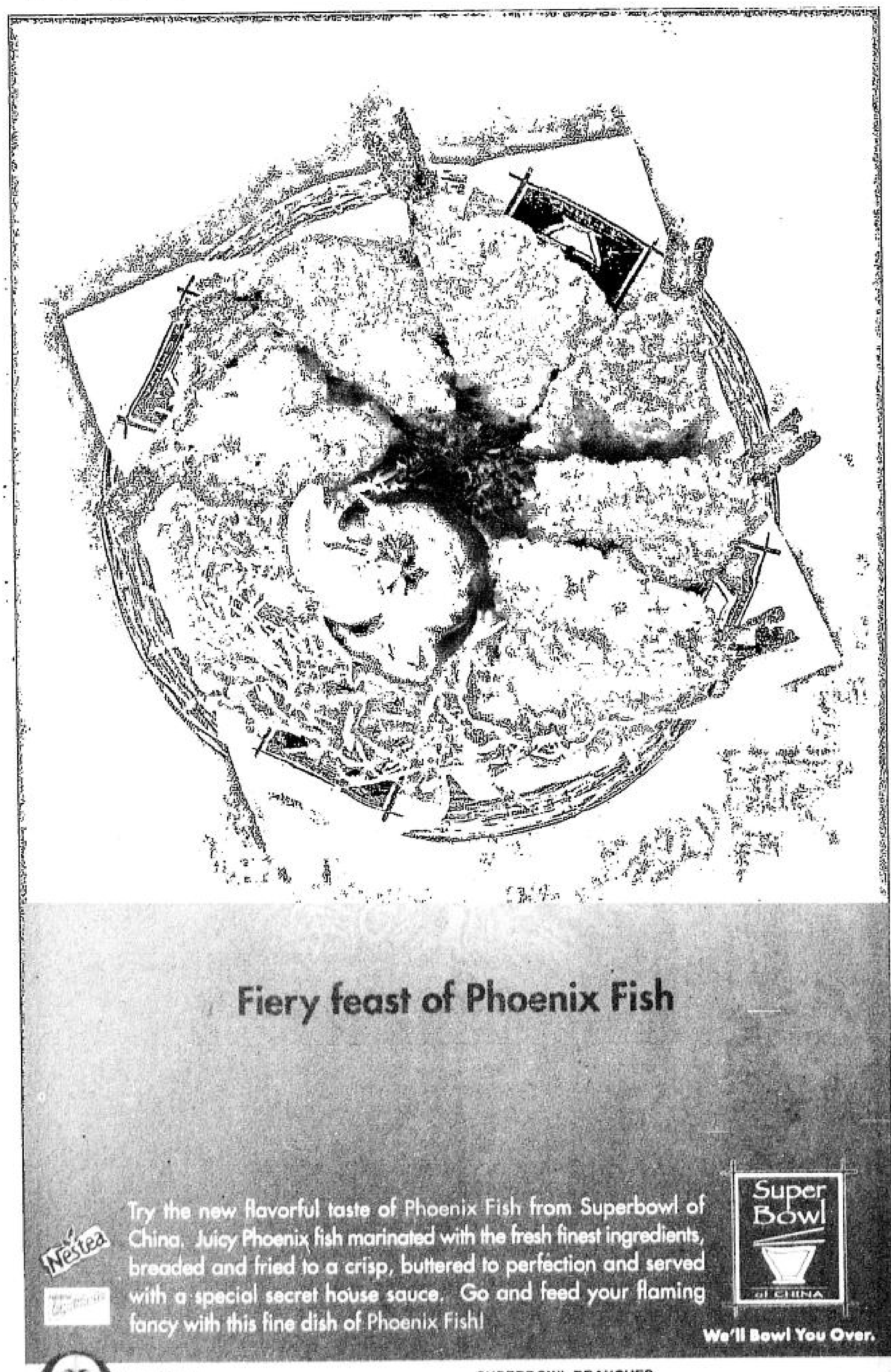

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LIFESTYLE

When the going gets tough, Pinoy fashion gets going

Amid crises, Filipino designers spin their chic-est yet

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Xander Angeles

GLOBAL crisis or global bliss, some things never change.

Seven veteran designers of the Filipino Designers Group, armed only with optimism, patience, ingenuity and hard work, remain resolute in their creative efforts to weather the times. "Tough times never go away," says Rina Go, owner and designer of Viseversa boutique. "If you love what you're doing, you just keep going."

Mike de la Rosa, who designs his own line for the SM Boutique Square, is similarly optimistic about retail prospects this year. "[I] work with whatever [fabric] is available," he says. "I have had to realign my prices to the fabrics I choose and design new wearable styles to adjust to the fabrics."

The success of a designer, says Efren Ocampo, is measured by how long he stays in the business. Like De la Rosa, Ocampo's own label is one of the best sellers at the SM Boutique Square for close to two decades now. "You should never allow these problems to limit your creativity," Ocampo says.

Go, meanwhile, believes in developing her identity in the market and sticking to that look. "You have to know what makes you different from others, your advantages, and what you have to offer," she explains.

Even made-to-order designers are not immune to issues affecting retail.

Price, like design, is always a compromise, says Gregg Centeno. He has had to source good fabrics from everywhere. "This is naturally more expensive, but we have to make our clients understand," he says.

Loretto admits he has had moments when he wanted to give up. A hard worker since he first started 22 years ago, he has saved enough to live comfortably.

Since Loretto was never keen on the business side of fashion, the prospect of spending his days tending to his vegetable patch and his 12 dogs seemed appealing.

But he knew he had other factors to consider. "If I gave up, where would that leave my workers? Besides, I'm an artist. I couldn't just sit all day and do nothing."

Old and new

Because of the global crisis, says Bubum Melgar, 2003 fashion will be a mix of the old and the new.

Wardrobe constants in seasons past will look fresh once again when combined with new pieces.

Always going against the design grain, the

WHEN/ M4

HAIR AND MAKEUP:
ERIC MANINGAT

MODELS:
ANNA LLOREN, JO ANN BITAGCOL, JOAN DE MESA, VERNS BUCKLEY, GAYLE ONG AND URIS CHAN OF CAL CARRIE'S, AND RACHEL SORIANO

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SMART Introduces Smart Amazing Phone

Smart, the undisputed mobile services leader, once again takes the lead with the imminent launch of the revolutionary Smart Amazing Phone. For the first time ever, Smart subscribers will have access to a Microsoft Windows-powered cellphone, enjoying features once only available from personal computers and laptops.

Aside from having tri-band as well as GPRS and MMS capabilities, the Smart Amazing Phone allows you to surf the Internet PC-style as opposed to just WAP, which is as far as regular handsets go. Moreover, it includes a digital camera, Windows Media Player for playing movies and MP3s, a datebook that synchronizes with Microsoft Outlook, and subsequently e-mail compatibility. Furthermore, the Amazing Phone has a voice recorder, speakerphone capability, ability for memory expansion, and a 65,000 color screen. You can even soup up the Smart Amazing Phone's memory by expanding it with an SD Card up to 256 megabytes—all you need for your movies, pictures or MP3s.

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The Smart Amazing Phone is the first in a range of devices that will combine the simplicity and functionality of the cellphone, with the limitless features and possibilities of Microsoft Windows. And its price tag is even smaller than many of the high-end handsets of leading manufacturers, not to mention its more advanced features and sleeker aesthetics over the popular but bulky models currently available.

Go beyond a mere glimpse into the future this March and actually own a piece of it--only with Smart as they launch the Smart Amazing Phone. It will be available at all Smart Wireless Centers or any Smart retail outlets. Smart, the widest network now gives you the powerful, the incredible Smart Amazing Phone. Put the future in your hands today.

ADVT.

STARSHOOTER. Blue leather strap accented with coral color cross stitching on seams, blue dial

BUSHMAN. Khaki tan, suede leather strap, stainless steel buckle, smooth bezel embossed with compass points and time intervals

The Irony *of it*

DOMINATOR. Brown leather strap accented with white stitching, stainless steel buckle

Ruggedly refined Swatch Irony watches are for those who prefer to handle something different, those who enjoy no fear, those who understand the need for exploration, those not intimidated by a challenge, and those who understand individuality

RIDING CHAMP Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski wears the Colossus, an incontestable homage to the hope and optimism of the competing spirit at the Athens 2004 Olympic Games.

Special | Promotion

The Boyz are In Town this Valentine's Day

Romance is a wonderful thing. It inspires poets to write beautiful words. It motivates people to go a step further for that special someone in your life. Romance can fill your heart with song, as you are wrapped in the melody with the one you love. Perhaps no other vocal group can be associated with the word "romance" more than the Philadelphia-bred troupe known the world over as Boyz II Men. SMART, together with co-presentors JAG Jeans and New Close-Up Lemon Mint, now bring to the Philippines the music and rhythms of Boyz II Men for a Valentine's concert to remember!

As part of SMART's Amazing Rhythms: The Concert Series, Grammy-award winning artists Boyz II Men will perform their trademark R&B and soul grooves on February 14, 2003 at The Fort Open Field. Known for hits like "End of the Road", "Water Runs Dry", "On Bended Knee", and others, the international recording superstars are guaranteed to make everyone's Valentine's Day unforgettable. These are the guys who gave us the new modern romantic pop - the same unmistakable slow beat that sets us to sighing and oohing with romantic sentimentality.

SMART gives you the chance to to jam with this tres-romantico group. SMART subscribers get a chance to enjoy a romantic exclusive come Valentines with FREE tickets available as well as brand new Nokia 3530s as grand prizes! Just join the Music Link Boyz II Men Promo. From February 8 to February 14, stay tuned to RX 93.1 and listen for promo announcements and Boyz II Men songs which will be played eight times a day. To get information on the promo, key in WIN TIX and send to 209. Think you know the group well? Play Boyz II Men trivia by keying in BOYZ and sending to 209. You can also download your favorite Boyz II Men ringtones by keying in TONE <keyword> and sending it to 209. Each download and trivia answer earns you points. Ten high scorers are chosen for each of the eight segments. These high scorers then win a pair of tickets each to the concert!

People who swapped their Non-SMART SIM to a SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM starting February 6 to February 10 were in for a treat. Even before the SIM swap opened, the lines were filled with Boyz II Men fans at participating JAG Outlets in Glorietta 2 Makati, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Robinsons Ermita. These happy SIM swappers got free tickets to the Boyz II Men Concert!

SIM Swappers at the JAG Boutiques were included in the raffle wherein 20 lucky winners got the special privilege of joining the very exclusive warm-up party for the big concert with Boyz II Men on February 13, 2003! They also got the chance to be picked in the raffle as the one lucky winner to meet and greet Nathan, Shawn, and Wanya before the concert on Valentine's Day.

From the moment they entered the music scene with the Grammy-award winning debut album "Cooleyhighharmony", Boyz II Men redefined romance for a new generation. Initially composed of Nathan Morris, Shawn Stockman, Wanya Morris, and Michael McCary, the four men met at the Philadelphia High School Of Creative And Performing Arts, forming the band in 1988. Michael Bivins of Bell Biv DeVoe took the quartet under his wing and brought them, fittingly, to Motown Records. Their debut album was one side dance, one side ballad, and was a huge seller in the USA. By the middle of 1993 the album was still high on the US chart with sales of over seven million copies.

Their second album titled "II" spawned number one hits "I'll Make Love to You", "On Bended Knee" and "One Sweet Day" (with Mariah Carey). From the soundtrack to the movie "Boomerang" came the group's biggest hit to date, the melancholy "End of the Road," which topped the US charts for a mammoth 13 weeks and provided the quartet with a UK chart-topper. The hits have just kept on coming for the boys, whether it's "Water Runs Dry", "It's So Hard to Say Goodbye to Yesterday" or "Four Seasons of Loneliness." In a market now saturated by groups obviously inspired by them, Nathan, Shawn and Wanya have continued on despite Michael leaving the group.

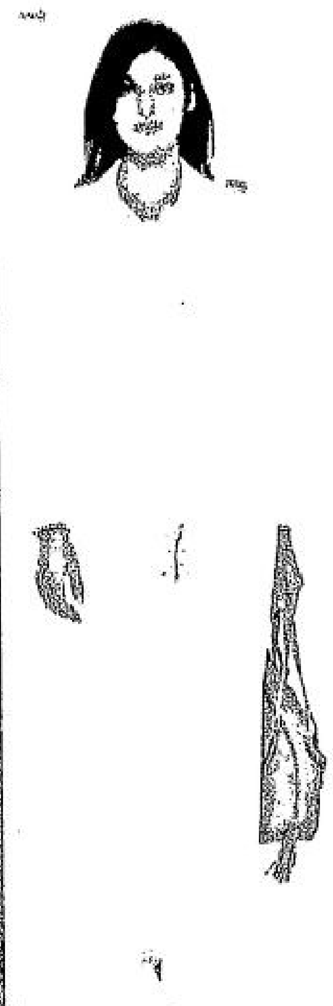
Get ready for the Valentine spectacular of your life! February 14 was never as romantic as it will be in 2003 when Boyz II Men sing their way to your hearts at The Fort Open Field. Only SMART can bring you world class entertainment like the Grammy-award winners.

Boyz II Men
MANILA
2003

With the widest range of services and over 8.5 million subscribers on the SMART network, SMART Amazing Rhythms: The Concert Series is just the latest way that SMART gives back to its SMART Buddy, SMART Gold, and Talk 'N Text subscribers. This isn't the "end of the road", in fact it's just the beginning. With SMART this Valentine's, you get loving service like no other.

ADVT.

COLE



LAUREL

'70s California look, mesh and natural touches for Spring 2003

THE LAUREL Spring-Summer 2003 features the '70s California look. Inspired by Halston and Marisa Berenson, contrasting elements and ethnic themes highlight classically shaped silhouettes and lines. Asymmetric tops are worn with flowing Marlene pants while a Carmen blouse is topped with a long vest; dresses double as coordinates over trousers. Romance is imbued in feminine shapes and drapes with chiffon and floral motifs.

Laurel is located on the third level of Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City.

LAUREL

Rugged and romantic

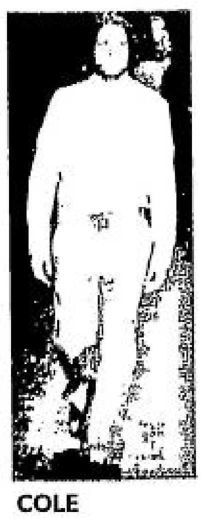
A/X ARMANI Exchange Spring 2003 features a palette of midnight and charcoal, caramel and clay, hot pink and cobalt blue. For women's wear, mesh is used in playful, athletic forms. Maharishi pants punctured with exposed zips, seams and grommets impart detail and texture. Griffin insignias glare from distressed denim skirts and jeans. For men, there are reversible vests, mesh tees, split-neck sweaters and active pants. Loose fit pants dominate. Leather is beaten, T-shirts are sprayed and stained; fluid dress shirts are wrinkled and rumpled; fabrics are mottled with a directional new gesso movement of random white splotches and paint-splattered brush strokes.

A/X Armani Exchange's Spring 2003 collection is available at A/X stores in Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Shangri-La Plaza Mall and Corte de las Palmas, Alabang Town Center. A/X Armani Exchange is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc.

Inspired by nature

NATURE touches every element of the Kenneth Cole Spring 2003 collection. And the woven shirt takes the spotlight. Variations include: Overhead access, whether you call it the caftan, hippie shirt, or tunic, shirts that are pulled over the head; Embroidery, from modern linear forms, decorative florals, to Middle East abstracts. Denim bottoms expand to include key "antique indigo" and "worn stone" to the mix in its Boot Cut silhouette.

Stores Specialists Inc. is the exclusive distributor of Kenneth Cole. Stores are located at Greenbelt 3 Mall in Ayala Center, Power Plant Mall in Rockwell Center, 158 Designers' Blvd in Alabang Town Center, at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall in Edsa and Rustan's Department Store in Makati.



COLE

THE KENNETH Cole Spring 2003 collection

Fashion speak

GOOD times or bad times, fashion will always be in style. Clothes have their way of expressing the mood of the moment, and do have that aspirational appeal.

In recent years, fashion has become more of an individual expression rather than a strict adherence to designer's forecasts. But it continues to be fun to see what designers have in store. Here, SM Boutique Square designers JM Goulbourn and Anthony Nocom give us a glimpse of their collections for the year.

"There are many looks, but the choice is ours on how to wear them—sexy, innocent, serious or fun," says JM Goulbourn. She adds that this year's looks are "simpler and more elegant than last year's celebrity hype styles."

Goulbourn sees three key silhouettes to watch out for in the first quarter: layered and loose with soft wrap skirts or pants; more architectural and tailored clothes—with simple tops and androgynous pants; and a continuation of last year's romantic look with Victorian touches—fluid dresses, floral prints and lace.

"Men's wear fashion will go back to simple, smart and basic styles," says Anthony Nocom. Tuned in to men's lifestyle dressing, his clothes are relaxed, comfortable and a form of self-expression.

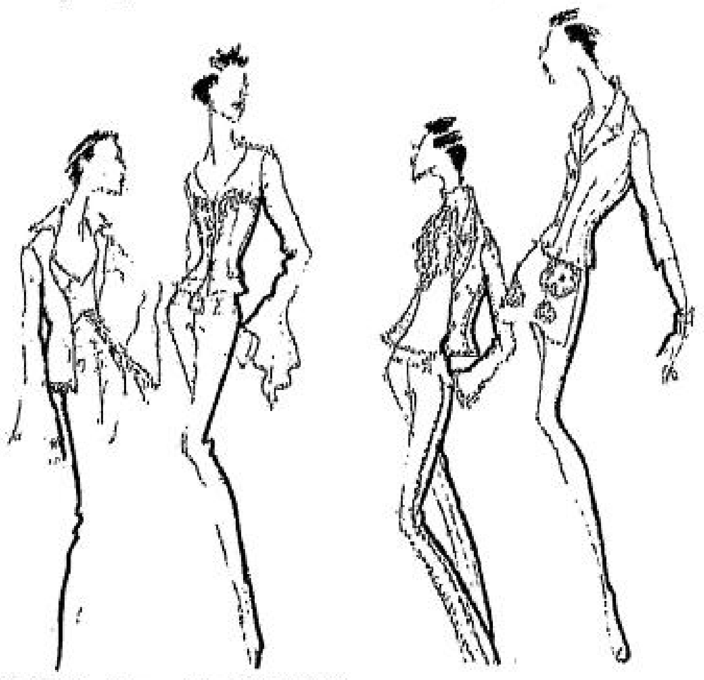
Nocom sees new and exciting color combinations: mocha and blue; black, ivory and blue; neutrals with brights. Patterns and textures are more adventurous—tone on tone embroidery and stitch patterns; mixing stripes with floral patterns; or a play on stripe widths.

He adds that stretch fabrics are "here to stay, and denims are coming on with new weaves, new treatments and new washings."

Nocom sees several menswear looks for the year. These include Utility, which is inspired by uniforms in working fabrics; Stripes, in a variety of colors and combinations in shirts; and Sportswear that will find expression in tees, as well as zip up track suit tops. In Suit Dressing, jackets will have narrow lapels and pants will have slimmer cuts.

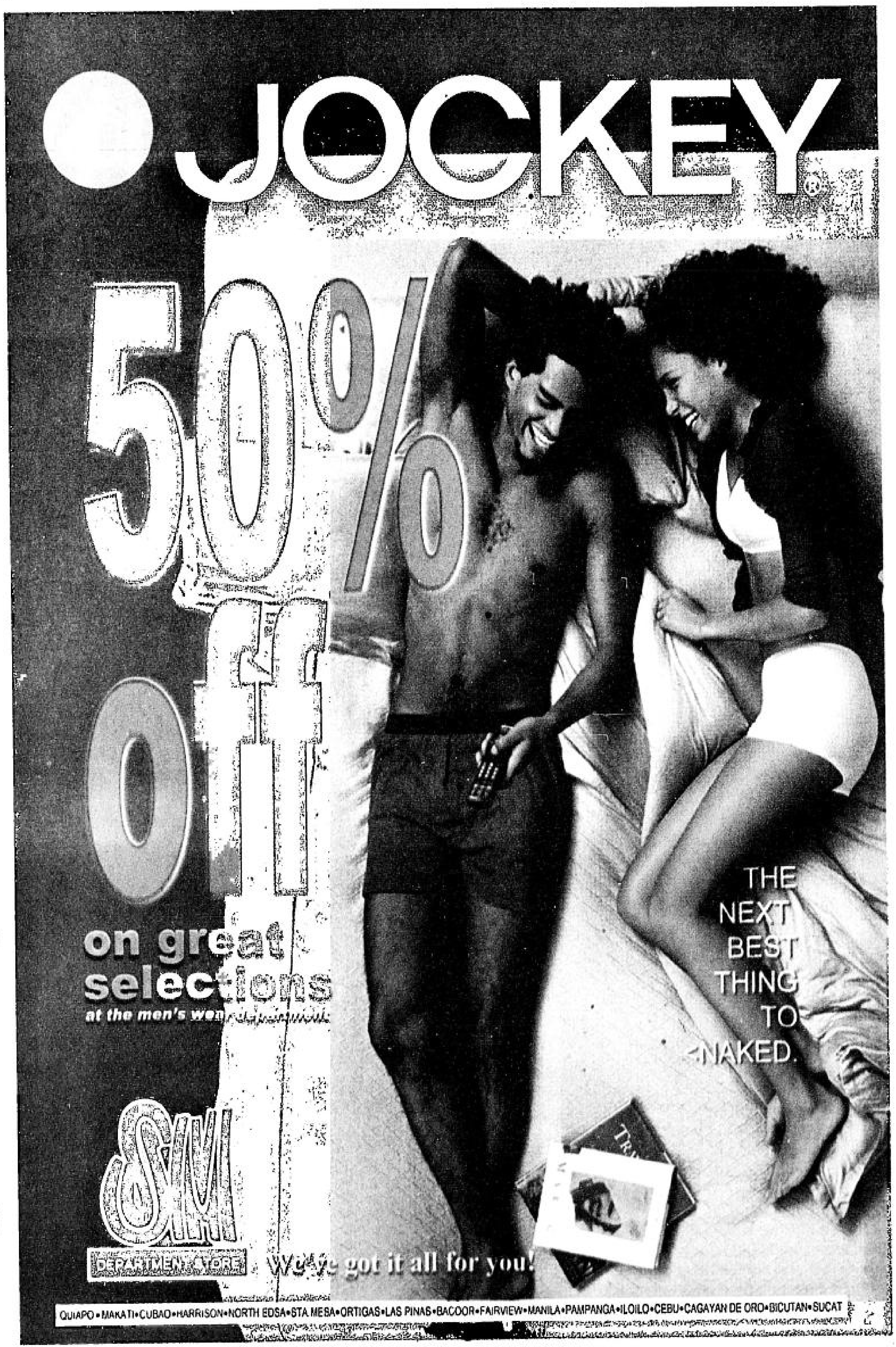
The collections of JM Goulbourn and Anthony Nocom are available at the SM Boutique Square.

WHITE knitted shirt worn under soft denim jacket with matching pants by Anthony Nocom



JEANNIE Goulbourn's look for 2003

BLACK long-sleeved top with stitch accent, worn with three-buttoned pinstriped suit and matching pants by Nocom



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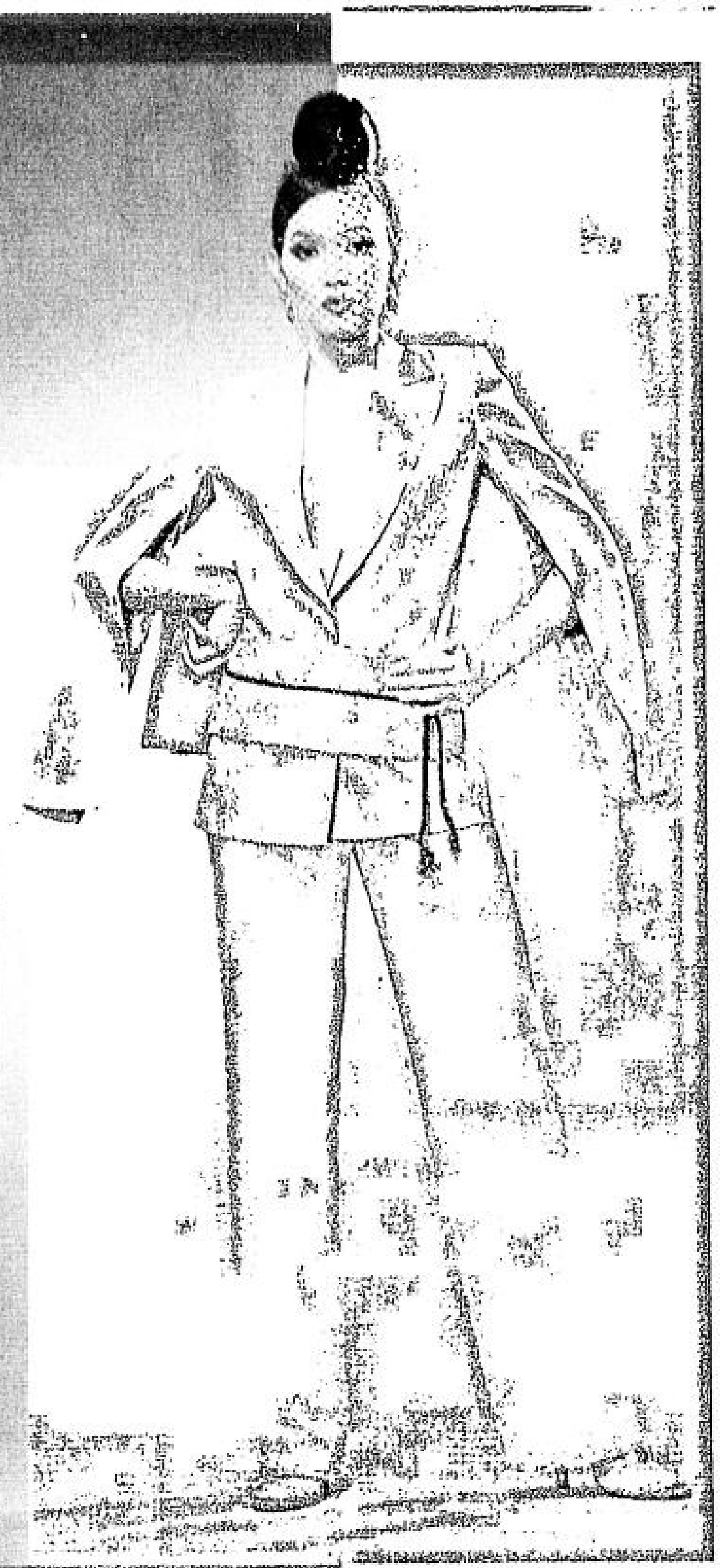
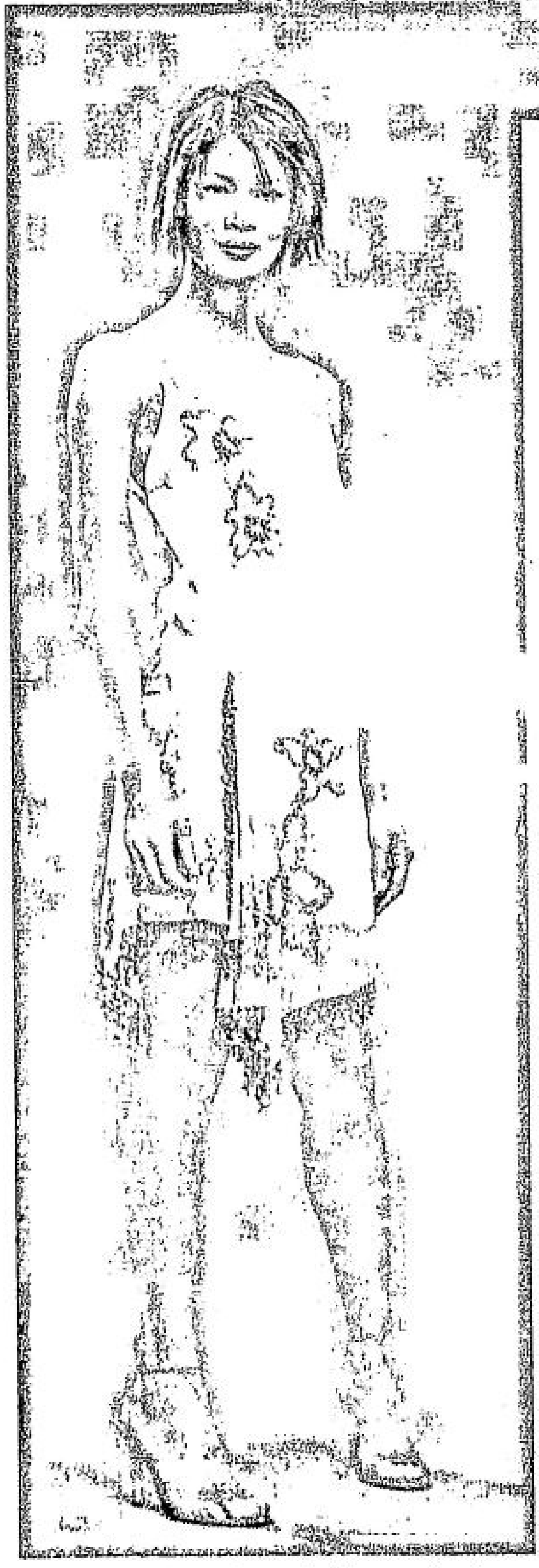
When the going gets tough

ANNA Loren is a picture of confidence and seduction in Efren Ocampo's body-skimming jersey gown with cutouts on the bodice.

THE ORIENTAL theme resonates in Cesar Gaupo's chiffon blouse with slashed extended sleeves paired with wide-legged pinstripe pants. An obi sash accents Gayle Ong's waist.

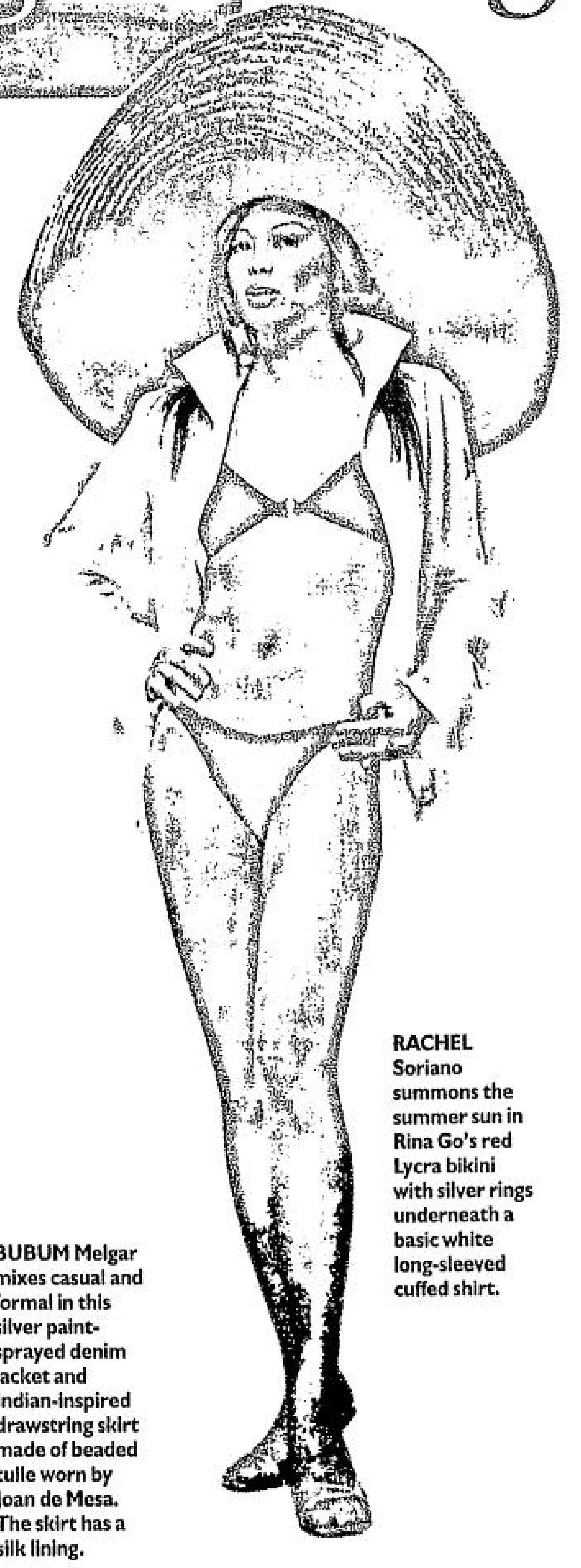


URIS Chan wears a seductive Suzy Wong-inspired palazzo pants and tailored coat with slashed loose sleeves. Adding to the allure is an obi sash tied around the hip.

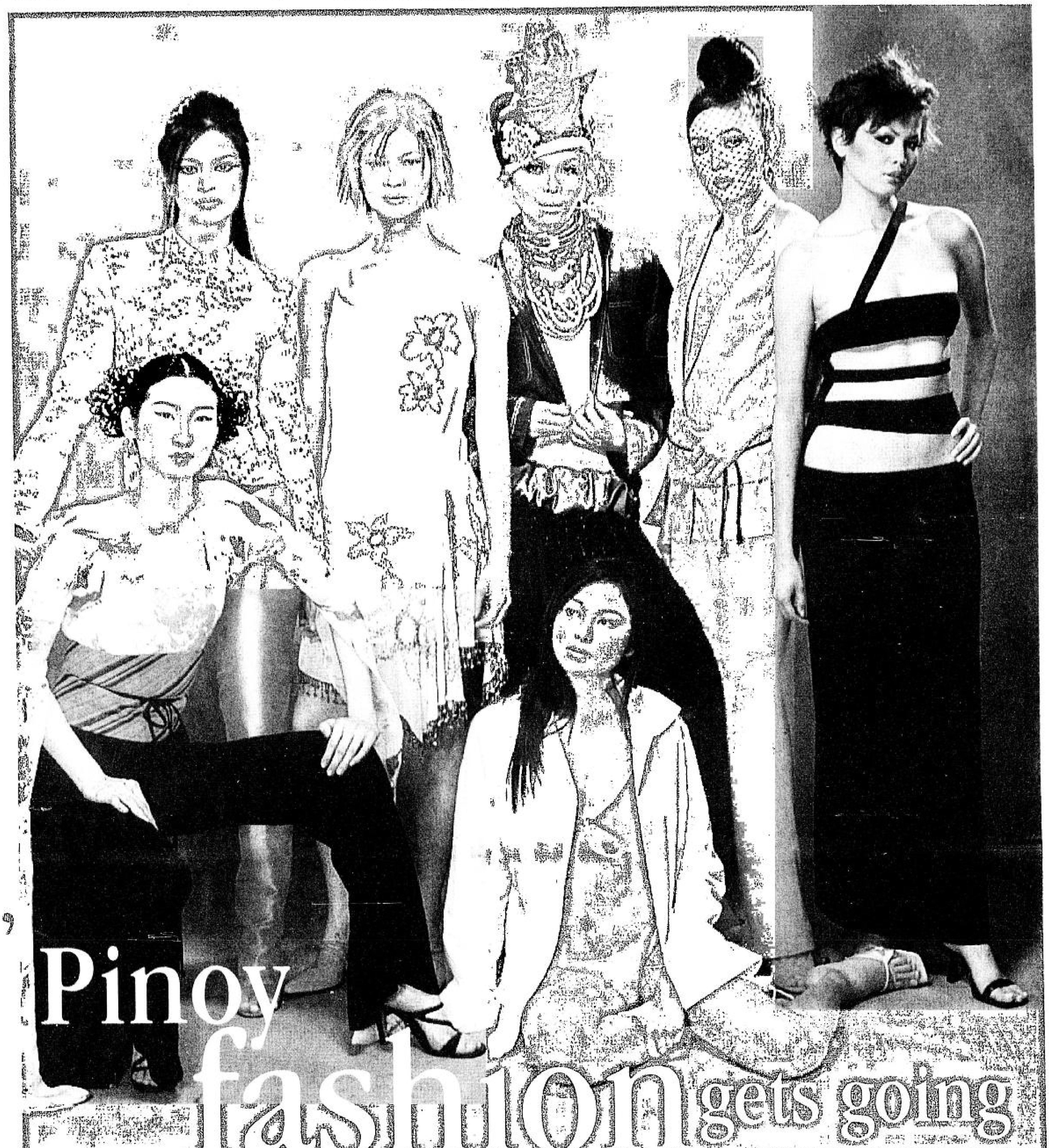


SIMPLICITY is key to Loretto's silk crepe sheath on Jo Ann Bitagcol. The dress is beaded with caviar, turquoise and crystal beads and sequins. He revives the sunny wrap of the '70s to accent the hip.

BUBUM Melgar mixes casual and formal in this silver paint-sprayed denim jacket and Indian-inspired drawstring skirt made of beaded tulle worn by Joan de Mesa. The skirt has a silk lining.



RACHEL Soriano summons the summer sun in Rina Go's red Lycra bikini with silver rings underneath a basic white long-sleeved cuffed shirt.



Pinoy fashion gets going

The FDG's Gregg Centeno, Mike de la Rosa, Loretto, Cesar Gaupo, Bubum Melgar, Efren Ocampo and Rina Go are doing very well, thank you

From page M1

self-effacing Melgar does not believe in fashion rules. "Fashion is about individualism," he says. "It should be fun." This attitude is evident in his design for this spread-spray-painted denim and beaded tulle casual-formal ensemble. "Sexiness is not about how tight the dress is, but how it is worn."

Ocampo succumbs to his creative fantasy with a slinky black number with sexy cutouts on the bodice—quite whimsical next to his easy clothes on the SM racks. He says there will be a diversity of looks this year. The designs that have been coming out, he adds, are in fact reworkings of past designs. Nothing is exactly new, "what is fresh is how a designer approaches his work."

Ocampo predicts skirts of all lengths—asymmetric, tiered, layered, very flirtatious and "definitely not simple"—will be big this year.

On De la Rosa's racks will likewise be wearable, flirty pieces, with a mix and match of fabrics "like satin pants with cotton tops," and oriental accents. The romantic look will still be in, he stresses. Silhouettes will be very feminine, like his oriental-inspired number with slim-fitting pants, which he believes will make a splash this year.

De la Rosa maintains, however, that there will be no strict rules to the fit of pants. "When I design," he says, "I always think basics as foundation, then innovate with texture, color, material."

Cesar Gaupo, who is now based in Hong Kong as chief designer of the Shanghai Tang fashion house, also sent in an Oriental-inspired ensemble from his SM Boutique Square label.

Asian inspiration

Echoing the Asian inspiration is Centeno's two-piece trouser suit ensemble with an obi-sash accent.

Known for his precise and constructed tailoring, Centeno says his works are products of thorough research and study. He counts Speaker's wife Gina de Venecia and Rep. Imee Marcos among his long-time clients.

Loretto goes for the simpler tack, literally. "You have to be realistic," he begins, "a dress, no matter how beautiful, is useless when it's not wearable." As such, Loretto comes up with a simple silk crepe sheath with minimal beading, accented only with a retro '70s wrap.

Go, whose clothes get the privilege this month to grace the Rustan's Makati display windows, sent in one of her hot bikinis from her Bare Necessities line, underneath a basic long-sleeved shirt from Viseversa. Her Brazil-made swimwear is competitively priced and comes in six styles.

It takes a lot of patience and maturity to survive the fashion business, says De la Rosa. Unlike the new breed of designers who now have the benefit of formal schooling and the support of the industry, De la Rosa says his generation learned through apprenticing with established designers in their time. These pioneers all agree the new generation is just as talented.

"[A designer] just needs to have direction," says Loretto, who admits he did his share of the social rounds and catwalk shows left and right in his heydays. "And professionalism," he hastens to adds. "You have to keep your word. That's how you create lasting relationships with clients."

MIKE de la Rosa combines silk and satin in this Oriental-print top with slightly flared cuffs. The slim pants flatter Verns Buckley's long gams.

Jen Gerodias is not a slave to fashion. She makes fashion her own

SHE wears jeans from a *tiangge*, a rugby shirt from a secondhand store, and a vintage Gucci bag care of Mom.

Inimitably hers

Text by Regina Filamor
Photos by Chito Vecina

IN A SOCIETY where everyone dresses according to fads and trends, such as the current uniform of flared low-rise jeans and the loose peasant blouse, it is refreshing to see someone who can individualize trends like Jen Gerodias.

You cannot help but notice her. Dressed in one of her party outfits, she wears loose cropped pants from three years ago, which she had inherited from her sister's closet, and a tube from Y.R.Y.S. accented by a military belt that came with a skirt two years ago. With matching high heels from Nine West, Jen simply stands out.

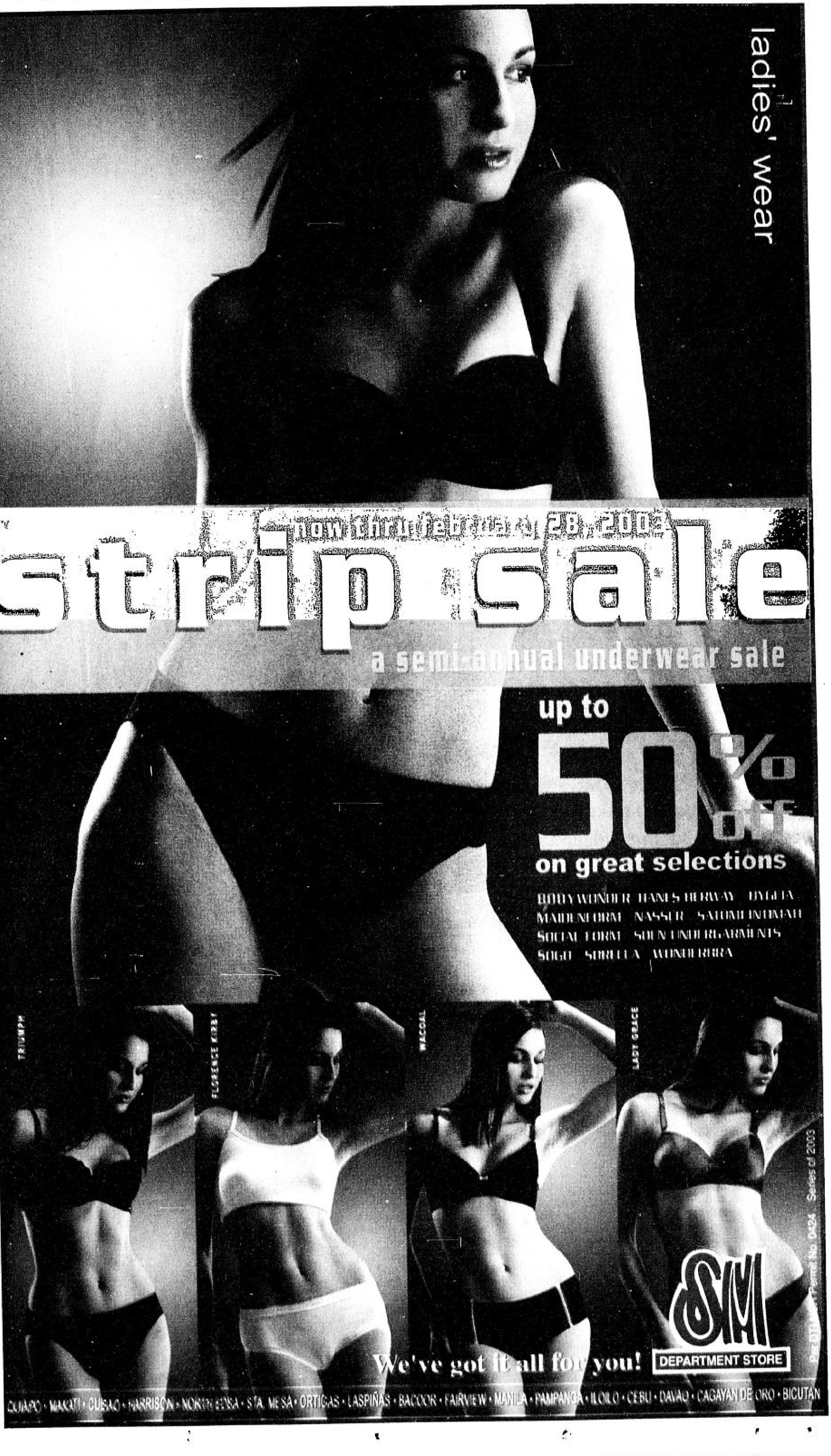
At 26, Jen is the vice president of leasing at MMG Corp. and an MBA student at the Ateneo. Whether she's going to work or school, or going out, Jen prides herself in looking like a million bucks for minimal bucks. Her secret: mixing it up by buying at local department stores, never throwing away any of her purchases and updating garments that were bought years ago.

Just like most of us, Jen had to wear a uniform in high school and never worried about clothes. And just like most of us, once she hit college, she was faced with the dilemma of choosing an outfit every day. The only difference is that Jen was determined to never repeat what she wore until the following semester. Like an actor who hates to be typecast, Jen best expresses herself through her clothes and is determined to always look stylishly different.

Largely influenced by Bazaar and Vogue magazines, she stretches her peso by buying locally made designer replicas, aka, knockoffs.

INIMITABLY/ M70

SHE wears loose cropped pants inherited from her sister's closet and a tube from Y.R.Y.S. accented by a military belt that came with a skirt two years ago and high heels from Nine West.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Inimitably hers

AS a professional, she personalizes your basic white polo and black pants.

From page M7

"The stuff here in Manila has a lot of potential," she says. "If it doesn't fit right, you can always customize it."

Even when she's traveling in Malaysia, Bangkok or San Francisco, Jen would buy the locally made items. "I don't like buying imported things. I have a few exceptions, of course. But, in general, you can buy more if the stuff is from the place you are."

The opposite

Rather than investing in expensive quality basics and using them over and over again until they are faded and gray (and looking like everyone else), Jen does the opposite. When shopping, she never cares about quality in the sense of it surviving a dozen washes. Since she plans to wear the garment only once, she purchases many inexpensive fashionable items and then puts them away for later use. It has been several years since college and all those clothes have piled up.

She now admits that she hardly shops and if she does, she either shops in her mom's or sisters' closets or at Landmark for accessories. She updates her look constantly by customizing long sleeve shirts into short sleeve ones, flared pants into tapered ones, adding beads to a plain blouse or by adding a belt to a plain dress. Clothes beget clothes it seems.

Jen's sense of individuality came from what she describes as experiencing every girl's nightmare: getting all dolled for a night out only to run into your mirror image. She recounts a story in which she went to Wasabi and was faced with twins wearing the same denim tube dress she bought from Mango. From then on, she vowed to shop non-brand name items.

This is where Jen's degree in fashion design from the Academy of Art in San Francisco comes in handy. Her keen eye and desire to be different have helped her develop her signature style as she would go through the racks and piles of clothes in bazaars and department stores like Shoemart and Landmark.

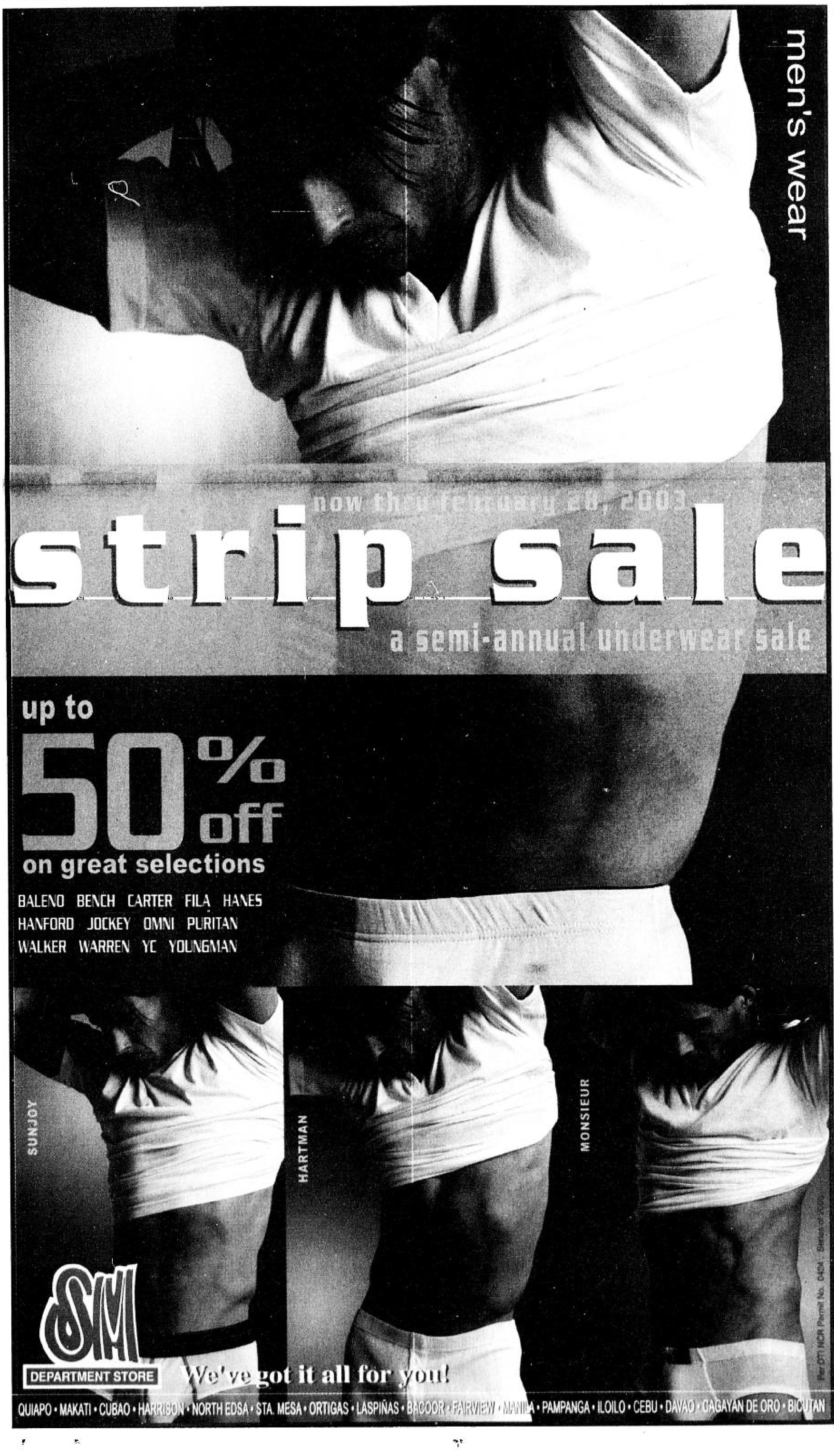
She likens her shopping sprees to grocery shopping: she needs a cart and piles on the provisions. She knows her body enough not to try clothes on and knows her style enough to decide on her purchases rather quickly.

The truth is that Jen does not follow the trends. Perhaps her magazines may decide what silhouette to look for, whether slim or loose; but she prefers tight and pretty much sticks to it.

In fact, she says, once something is *uso*, she refuses to wear it and looks for something else. Or if anything, she would wear the flared low-rise jeans and loose top but wear white shoes in an effort to put her personal stamp on it. Again with her trove of clothes from years ago, she has many options.

Her closet features shoes from Janilyn, Finickee, Nine West and Gucci; clothes from *tiangge* and flea markets, Y.R.Y.S. and Topshop. Invariably, most garments are from places without any brand at all, others are custom made reruns.

"It's all about having your own interpretation of the trends," Jen says. "Some people are too lazy to make their interpretations; or even worse, too scared to go against the trend for fear of humiliation. Don't hide behind your clothes. Wear clothes that you like not because everyone else is wearing it."



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Per DTI NCR Permit No. 0404

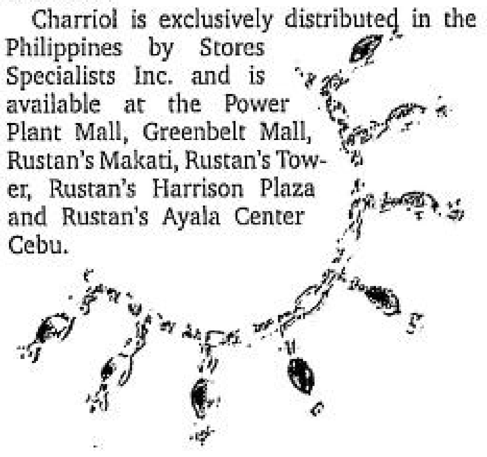
Valentine temptations

THIS Valentine's Day, indulge your lady with Charriol's Bonbons Temptation.

Wrapped in 18-k gold packets, uncovered like the hint of beauty of a woman's form, Bonbons Temptation, with their delicately polished precious stones, are a play of sparkling colors and deep transparencies. Grenadine red, topaz blue, citrine yellow or amethyst green: a harmony of colors, intermingled on a charm bracelet.

The charm bracelet encircles your lady's wrist with a choice of detachable bonbons that can be changed and interchanged to suit her sentimental feeling, inspiration or fancy. Each bonbon is set with a small clip so she can attach it where she wants, even as a pendant on a chain.

Charriol is exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Stores Specialists Inc. and is available at the Power Plant Mall, Greenbelt Mall, Rustan's Makati, Rustan's Tower, Rustan's Harrison Plaza and Rustan's Ayala Center Cebu.



Modern twist to classic preppy look

MARKS & Spencer's Blue Harbour offers relaxed, authentic casualwear for men of all ages. This wide-ranging collection provides a mix-and-match wardrobe for every occasion. This spring, lightweight fabrics in laid-back styles bring a modern twist to the classic preppy look. Additional color themes of pink and indigo, naturals, blues and greens add freshness to the signature colors of red, white and blue. Classic favorites include polos, T-shirts and cool cotton knits teamed with relaxed chinos, denims and soft jackets to complete the casual look of Blue Harbour.

Blue Harbour is available in all Marks & Spencer stores located at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Glorietta 4, Alabang Town Center, SM Megamall, Greebelt 3, Power Plant Mall, Robinsons Place Manila, Harrison Plaza, Robinsons Starmills Pampanga and Ayala Center Cebu. Rustan Marketing Specialists Inc. is the official franchisee of Marks & Spencer.

Love is for texting and smelling, too

When it comes to romance, few can beat Filipinos in conjuring creative ways to express their thoughts and feelings. Women have been known to both fan and fawn, even intentionally drop a hanky or two to give a prospective lover the hint that she favors him. Men have chopped firewood, cleaned house, plucked flowers and sung love sonnets from underneath a windowsill, to communicate in so many words, the extent to which a man will go to please his beloved. On the other hand, animals, lacking the capacity for speech, simply let chemicals do the talking. Their bodies exude pheromones, natural chemical scents produced to attract the opposite sex when the time is right for mating.

This Valentine's, the love dance continues via sms, the communication technology of choice for the upwardly mobile. At Globe Telecom Business Center, you can say I Love You with a text and a spritz. A 50 ml bottle of Baby Bench cologne is yours free when you get a new postpaid subscription or purchase a Globe or Touch Mobile pre-paid SIM pack or phone kit from now till February 28 at all Globe Telecom Business Centers. Upon purchase, you will be given a Valentine coupon, which you can exchange for the Bench cologne at any Bench store nationwide until April 29.

Check out the latest phone models and avail of cool freebies with Globe Telecom Business Center Exclusives.

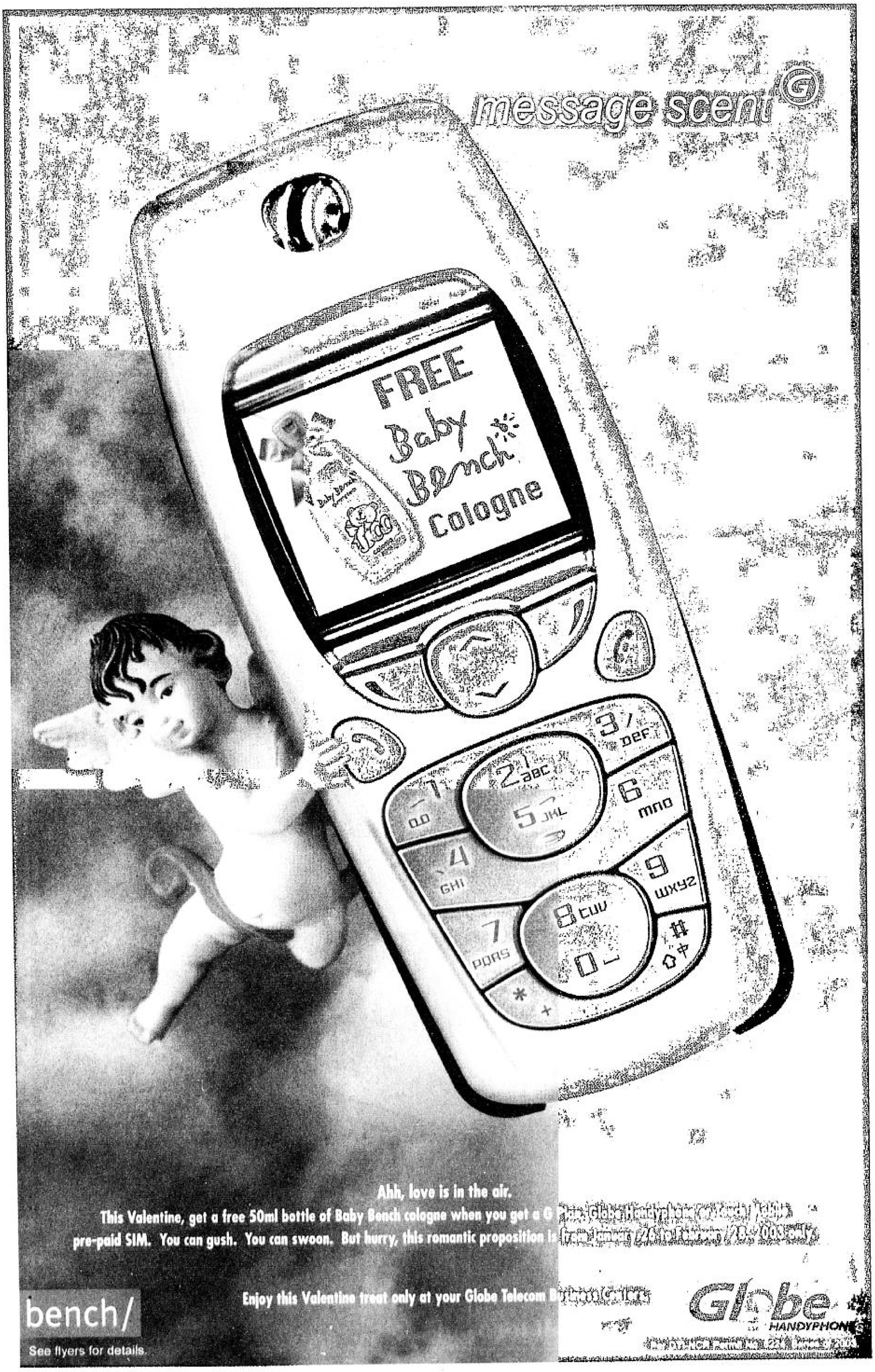
These colognes come in six refreshing variants that will endear you to your textmate—Bubble Gum, Lemon Drop, Jelly Bean, Popsicle, Cotton Candy, Gummy Bear and Ice Mint.

Visit any Globe Telecom Business Center now and have your message "scent."■

Sample hip features of the newest phones.

Get a bigger bundle of benefits at Globe Telecom Business Center.

GLOBE TELECOM Business Center Exclusives



Ahh, love is in the air.

This Valentine, get a free 50ml bottle of Baby Bench cologne when you get a G Plan, Globe Handyphone or Touch Mobile pre-paid SIM. You can gush. You can swoon. But hurry, this romantic proposition is from January 26 to February 28, 2003 only.

Enjoy this Valentine treat only at your Globe Telecom Business Centers.

Valentine's Day

A revived lover's lane in the old soul that is Malate

The revived Plaza Rajah Sulayman and the Bay area is a perfect venue for a date if the rest of the restaurant district of inner Malate seems full to the brim. If you and your partner want more air and sea sights, then go to where the palms are.

Text and photos by Raquel P. Gomez

CAFE Adriatico by the Bay on a Sunday night.

THE MOOD of Malate, the famed restaurant district in Manila, has always been that of gaiety, warmth and a dose of magic that only a place with an old soul could give.

Of late, however, some curious change has been happening, particularly in the area fronting the Our Lady of Remedios Church and beyond the Bay. It has been becoming a dating place and a hangout of people from all walks of life—lovers, yuppies, and families with children, including their dogs.

Since Manila Mayor Lito Atienza rehabilitated the place through his "Buhayin ang Maynila" program, Rajah Sulayman Plaza and the breakwaters in front extending from the US Embassy to the Manila Yacht Club has become a sort of mini-mecca for people enjoying the ambiance, sounds and the food.

There's a large, interesting fountain in the middle of the well-lit plaza and the Bay area. There are palm trees. Benches and the grounds are tiled with an interesting mix of large granite slabs and terra cotta. There are several restaurants and coffee shops, some have been there for years, the others have just opened. The area has the character of the beautiful old Manila our parents spoke of, but now fused with a feel of the contemporary.

This Valentine's Day, the revived Plaza Rajah Sulayman and the Bay area is a perfect venue for a dinner date if Nakpil, Remedios Circle or the rest of the restaurant district of the inner Malate seems full to the brim. If you and your partner want more air and sea sights, then proceed to where the palms are.

The choice of restaurants here are varied—there's a newly opened Max, the ever-reliable Aristocrat, Cowboy Grill if you want to enjoy bands, CountryStyle for coffee and donuts, and 7-Eleven for the convenient pack of cigarettes.

But to really enjoy the atmosphere of the park and the Bay, try the "al fresco" restaurants—Tabi-Tabi Po (located in the park in front of the old church) and Café Adriatico by the Bay (which is really located by the bay). Both restaurants offer reasonably priced dishes and tasty coffee and, of course, the ambiance.

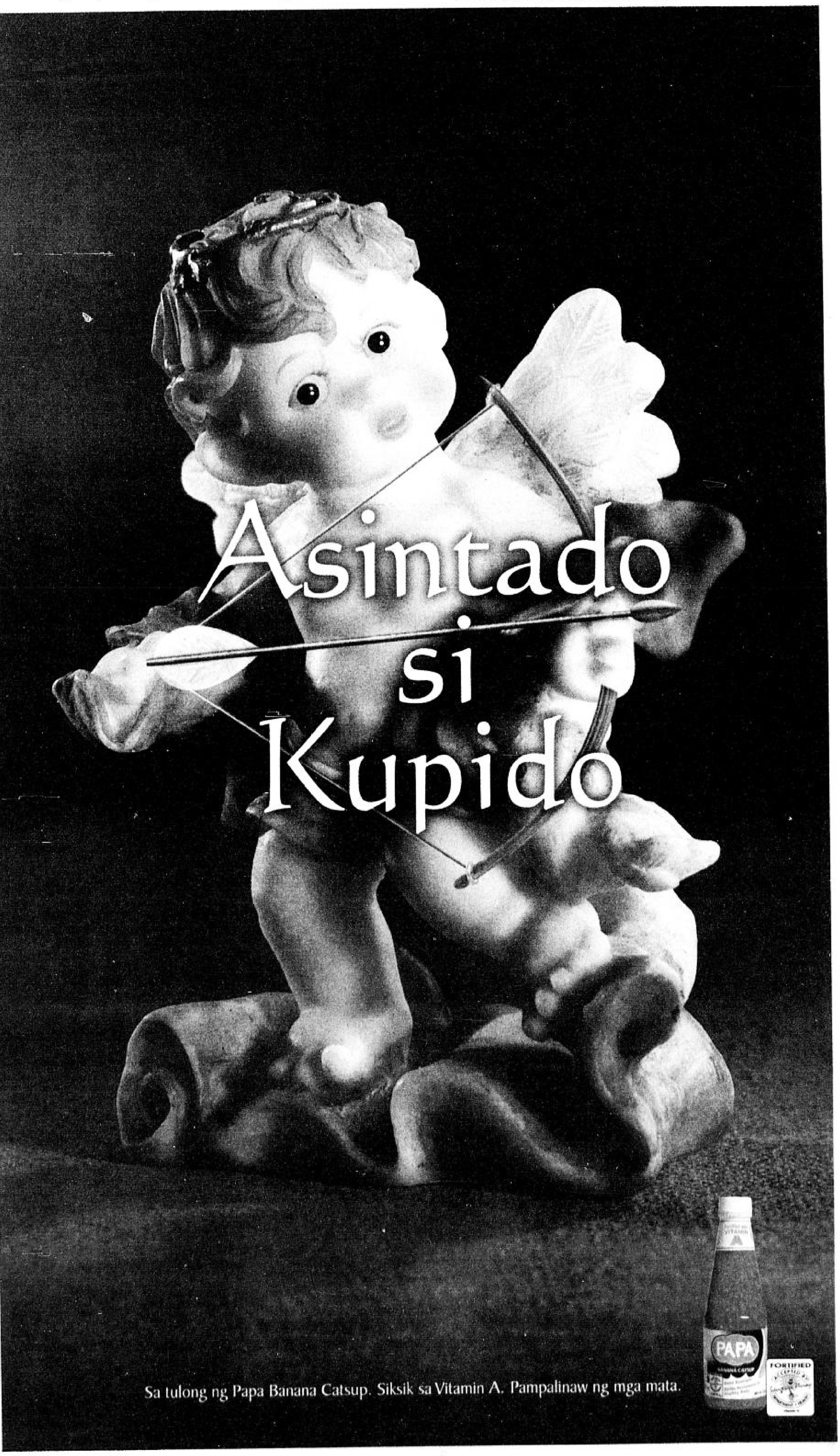
Tabi-Tabi Po is one comfortable place with plants and the flowers from the nearby shops adding to its appeal. It offers rice toppings (chicken barbecue, pork barbecue, T-bone steak, lamb chops, hamburger steak) with prices that range from P75 to P125. It offers pandesal sandwiches (with German sausage, ham and cheese, chicken, or quesong puti), from P30-P75. Aside from the imported coffee (P37) and the Batangas coffee (P27), they offer hot choco, hot tea and cold beverages.

Café Adriatico by the Bay is an extension of Café Adtriatico and owned by Larry Cruz, the restaurant king of Malate who owns the chain of Café Adriaticos and other successful food restaurants.

Cruz says the bay restaurant, which is really makeshift with the tent and the folding chairs and tables, also offers some Café Adriatico dishes but mostly barbecues-to-go with the open air atmosphere. There are beer and coffee beverages or fruit juices for people who want to hang out by the sea. The come-on of the place, aside from the view of the sea and beyond, is the price of the menu, which Cruz says is really offered

REVIVED/N2

> The area has the character of the beautiful old Manila our parents spoke of, but now fused with a feel of the contemporary



Sa tulong ng Papa Banana Catsup. Siksik sa Vitamin A. Pampalinaw ng mga mata.

A revived lover's lane in the old soul that is Malate

From page N1

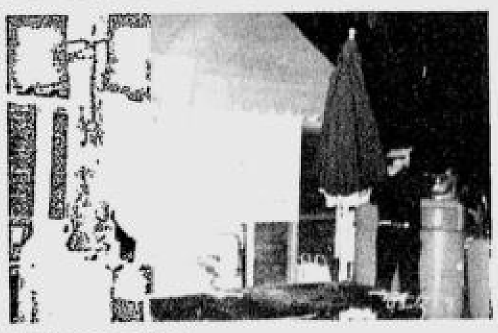
at "popular prices" compared to those of other Café Adtriatico branches.

Café Adriatico by the Bay is open for breakfast on weekends to accommodate joggers and other city denizens who enjoy the fresh morning air from the sea. But on weekdays, it's open from afternoon until midnight.

"This is a unique place to spend Valentine's," says Cruz who is more than happy that the place has been revitalized and people have more beautiful places to enjoy. Cruz says the area was famous in the '60s, when people trooped by the Bay to frolic or just enjoy the view.

"Double-decker buses called Motorco used to bring people here," Cruz says. "This was a famous destination."

At the moment, it's becoming famous again.



AL Fresco cooking

ENJOY 'pan de sal' with 'quesing puti' and coffee at Tabi-Tabi Po.

A Valentine treat
Buy a Watch and get your 2nd watch at 50% off
Limited offer
February 10-16, 2003 only
* Discount shall be applied to the watch with the same value.
ALFEX | CASIO | Fila | G-Shock | Nike | Oakley
TIME DEPOT
Watches beyond time
Level 3 - Rockwell Power Plant Mall • Level 5 - Shangri-la Plaza
Level 2 - Robinsons Place Manila • G/F - SM City Fairview
G/F - SM City Davao • G/F - SM City Pampanga • Upper G/F
Bldg. B SM City Bicutan • Level 2 - SM North Edsa Annex

mario's

The Ultimate in Leisure Dining Experience

Celebrate Valentine's Day with us and enjoy a selection of sumptuous food and excellent service in a romantic, cozy setting.

Mario's at Ortigas Center is now open to serve you.

MARIO'S Quezon City
191 Tomas Morato Ave,
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Tel. Nos. 372-0360 / 415-3887
Fax No. 372-0352

MARIO'S Ortigas
St. Francis Square,
Julia Vargas Avenue,
Mandaluyong City
Tel. Nos. 634-3417 to 19
Fax No. 634-3420

MARIO'S Baguio City
16 Session Road Extension,
Baguio City
Tel Nos. (074) 442-7445 / 442-4241
Telefax No. (074) 442-5445

Celebrate with everyone you love at SM

VALENTINE is for everyone, and SM Supermalls shoppers can Celebrate Valentine with Everyone You Love with lots of music, romance and fun this February.

During this time, musical ensembles will serenade shoppers with love songs and romantic strains. On Feb. 13, SM Megamall celebrates with Heart Strings, Feb. 15 with Philmusica, and Feb. 15 with the Crystal Strings Quarter. The RSVP Trio played at the SM City North-Edsa Feb. 13. The Mikneah Quartet plays today. At the SM Southmall, the Acoustic Heart Quartet played Feb. 13. The RCJ Strings Quartet plays today, and again on Feb. 15.

Other musical performances include the Tower Strings Quartet, the Pearl Manila Strings Quartet, and the Bernie Pasamba Quartet from Feb. 13 to 15 at SM City Fairview. The Bernie Pasamba Quartet and the Acoustic Heart Quartet is up Feb. 13 to 15, and Feb. 16, respectively, at SM Centerpoint. In the south metro area, the Seephomy Quartet, RSVP Trio, and the Diamond Strings Quartet plays romantic music at SM City Bicutan, while the Mikneah, Blue Note, and Heart Strings play love songs at SM Sucat from Feb. 13 to 15. All performances begin at 3 p.m.

Valentine is also a fun time. Join the dating game with Carlo Munoz and Cheska Garcia as they search for their Valentine partners at SM City Manila today, SM Megamall on Feb. 15, and SM City Cebu Feb. 15.

The excitement continues with the SM Ice Skating Rink's Valentine Fun on Ice. Get a free loot bag every time you purchase two regular Ice Skating tickets, and an additional hour of fun on ice when you present a print ad cutout of this promo. Likewise, bowl your heart out and bring home a surprise Valentine gift for a minimum of four games played at the SM Bowling Centers.

Storyland family Valentine

Make it a date with the whole family as Storyland, the country's most exciting indoor theme park, celebrates Valentine with fun events for everyone.

Meet and greet Storyland's lovable characters—Ellie the Elephant, Lionel, Sgt. March, Eggbert, as well as its playful clowns from Feb. 15 to 22 at Storyland SM Southmall and on Feb. 16 and 23 at Storyland SM City Fairview. These sessions will be held from 11 a.m. to noon.

It's a family affair at the park: fortune telling with Madame Adi, a treasure hunt for heart-shaped goodies, and face painting fun at Storyland Southmall from Feb. 15 to 22, and Storyland Fairview from Feb. 16 to 23, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Listen to the music of love with the rest of the family with the park's Valentine concerts. Taking center stage are the Blue Ground and Waterfront Band at Storyland Southmall on Feb. 15. Also not to be missed is the Storyland Musical Show on Feb. 22 from 4 to 5 p.m.

Park guests can also showcase their talents at Storyland-Tom's World's Duo Dance Maniax and Videoke Singing competitions. In the former, pairs can show their stuff inspired by the arcade dance game and have a chance to win exciting prizes in the grand finals on Feb. 14 at 4 p.m. at Storyland Southmall.

In the Videoke Singing competition, contestants can get a chance to win cool prizes in the grand finals on Feb. 14 at Storyland Fairview.

The sound of music, the music of love

THE SOUND of a heart in love is a sound of sweet music. Every word spoken is a lyrical expression; every sound of a heart beating is a musical celebration. Music and love come naturally together, a union that transcends every possible barrier.

For music, like love, is a universal language. It is a language every heart understands.

Celebrate music and love with Casio and its wide array of top-of-the-line and affordable musical keyboards—from the standard size keyboards, high-grade keyboards, digital piano, and key-lighting keyboards. Casio makes music natural for everybody and musical instruments easily within the reach of people everywhere.

The Casio keyboards are designed to discover, develop, and nurture everybody's love for music. The Key Lighting Keyboard models are specially designed for beginners and those with no music background. The Key Lighting System teaches the notes you need to play while equipped with built-in tunes that range from pop to classics.

The newest and latest Casio Key Lighting Keyboard, the LK-43 features the key lighting system, 61-full size keys with touch response, layer/split. 100-song bank tunes, song bank controller, song memory, and voice fingering guide. With The LK-43 Key Lighting Keyboard, learning the joy of music becomes easy and captivating.

Anybody who wants to play the Casio keyboard just need to master the timing of the melody note, master the correct melody keys, and play at normal speed.

What a better way to express love than through the beautiful sound of music you play with a Casio keyboard, while the sweet voice of your loved one renders the most unforgettable song in your life. Absolutely enchanting!

As an added treat to the celebration of music and love, the Casio Music Circle offers a center for those who want to learn, develop, and enhance more their musical passion and ability. Located at the 2nd level of City Center Building, 328 Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila (705-1519), the Casio Music Circle is open to every people at all age levels. It has a team of professional music teachers who aspire to share their love of music to those who are willing to learn.

With a set of musical instruments and a center for musical education, Casio definitely makes music for all!

Special menu at Mario's

MARIO'S Restaurant is offering a special menu for Valentine's Day with Pumpkin Soup with Sour Cream and Chives for starters. A choice between Seared Salmon with garlic, basil and red bean sauce or Oriental Spiced Fillet of Beef for the main course, and the mouthwatering Strawberry Suzette for dessert. Diners can also choose from a selection of Mario's contemporary dishes. Appetizer pick includes Gambas Al Ajillo, Calamares Fritos and Oysters Rockefeller.

Soup choices include Sopas de Mariscos and the French Onion Soup. For salad are Mario's Caesar, Iceberg, Romaine and Greek Village.

Main course selection are Charbroiled Blue Marlin, Grilled Prawns, Barbecued Spareribs, Lengua Con Setas, Callos Madrilena, Salpicado, and the favorite US Black Angus Rib Eye.

For dessert, choices include Toffee Sans Rival and Canonigo.

For inquiries and reservations, call outlets at Ortigas Center at 634-3417, Quezon City at 372-0360 or 415-3887, Baguio (074)442-5445.

'Soiree: The Streetlife Valentine's Singles Party'

ON Feb. 15, at 8 p.m., Streetlife Remix at level 3, Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, Makati invites singles to Soiree: The Streetlife Valentines Singles Party for a chance to get together with those in the same state of 'singlehood' and celebrate the season of love.

Let Streetlife be your matchmaker and find you a partner through a unique matchmaking scheme. Then, enjoy the many fun ways of getting to know your date by demonstrating the sexiest way to lick-shoot-and-suck Tequila, kiss perfectly, make a connection, or simply enjoy the rest of the evening as you groove to the electrifying live performances of the bands.

This exciting event is sponsored by Jose Cuervo Tequila and Monster Radio RX 93.1.

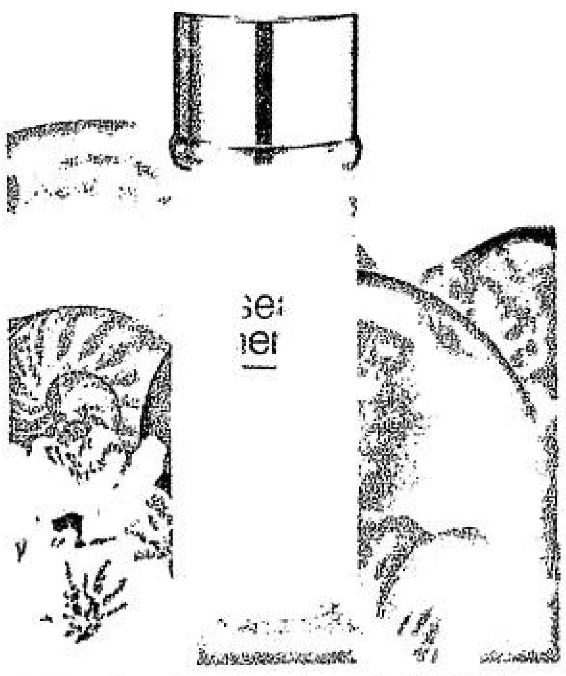
Of scents, cynics and zodiac

EVERY TIME Valentine's Day approaches, there are two things that are certain to overwhelm, other than those heart-shaped cakes in our favorite pastry shop: 1) cynicism from single people about Valentine's as an excuse for commercialism and; 2) general incomprehension among attached males about what to give their partners.

Let's tackle the second issue since there are easier solutions.

For most men, Valentine's Day is something they'd rather avoid. But like the annual tax bill, it comes once a year and they'd have to deal with it. It's not because men are hopelessly unromantic. They're just generally afraid that the Valentine gift they'll give is all wrong.

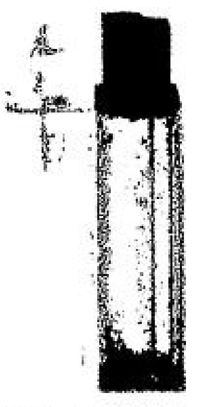
Deciding on a Valentine's gift is much like men trying to hammer nails blindfolded. Occasionally they'll hit the mark, but most often it will result in an unpleasant experience. The women in their lives often meet with less than wild enthusiasm supposed offerings of love like a flat iron with a built-in water spray or a blender in blue violet. Don't such gifts only say, "Honey, you ought to do more housework"? There's the exercise equipment that's less of an expression of love but more of an insinuation to finally lose weight. Well-intentioned, indeed, but the results are sometimes catastrophic.


FOR her charming and gentle ways (La Prairie Sea Energy)

Could men be lacking in genes that cause the appreciation of things like chocolates, jewelry and stuffed animals? Or should we blame Cupid whose arrow only hits the woman's heart but inflicts massive head trauma to the male? There is no scientific explanation for this peculiarity but we can help those men who deserve our sympathy and understanding for their feeble attempts at romance, men who really try to make their women happy.

Scents never fail. Humans' sense of smell is as important as our senses of sight and sound. What we sniff affects memory, mood and energy levels by projecting images in our minds, boosting confidence, enticing, seducing and relaxing.

There are familiar rules in choosing the perfect perfume or cologne for women. Other than "Don't buy any scent that reminds you of your mother", the star signs are a source of guidance. Consider this astrological chart:


SHARE the scent of elegance and sensuality (Sentiment by Escada for men and women).

For the Aries woman—adventurous, ambitious, impulsive, full of energy, pioneer both in thought and action, a lover of freedom—the great fragrances are fresh and fruity. The head component is citrus, and then various aromatic fragrances follow. Examples of these are Clinique Happy for Women, Annick Goutal Eau d'Hadrien, Etro.

For Taurus—solid, practical, strong-willed, stable, peace loving—the ideal fragrances are sweet, powdery florientals. They consist of intense floral notes, mossy, balsamy and musk scents. Try Rykiel Rose.

For Gemini—dual-natured, elusive, complex and contradictory—the scent should be fresh, with citric notes, soft flowery and wood fragrances. Allure by Chanel would be perfect.

For Cancer—the least clear-cut of all signs, timid, shy and withdrawn to the most brilliant, also fundamentally conservative and home-loving—the best fragrances are floral, fruity, green ones with an overall warm, powdery-sweet impression, like L'Or de Torrente, Soular Therapy 'Cancer'.

For Leo—most dominant, independent, self-confident, ambitious, spontaneously creative and extroverted of all zodiacal characters—it's a fragrance with intense floral components with warm, oriental nuances. Dior Addict is very Leo.

For Virgo—delicately lovely, intelligent, precise, observant, shrewd, refined, with a fastidious love of cleanliness, hygiene and good order—green, sporty fragrances are ideal. The head note is a bit bitter and fresh, later joined by grasses, fruits and exotic woody notes. I Love Dior by Christian Dior and Chanel No. 19 are of this variety.

For Libra—elegant, charming, kind, gentle, lovers of beauty and harmony, diplomatic—warm orientals with exotic floral and spicy notes are best. Check out La Prairie Sea Energy Cellular Treatment Body Fragrance, Sentiment by Escada.

For Scorpio—most intense, profound, powerful, sensual, thoughtful in conversation, dignified and reserved, yet affable and courteous—the ideal fragrances are fresh chypre fragrances with various grass and spice notes. The feminine touch comes from exotic floral scents and oriental components like L'Occitane Green Tea.

For Sagittarius—optimistic, full of enterprise, energy, versatility, also adventurous, eager to transcend the familiar—the best fragrances are fresh floral-chypre notes with masculine elements (moss, leather). Ideal fragrances are Soular Therapy "Saggittarius" and Tommy Girl.

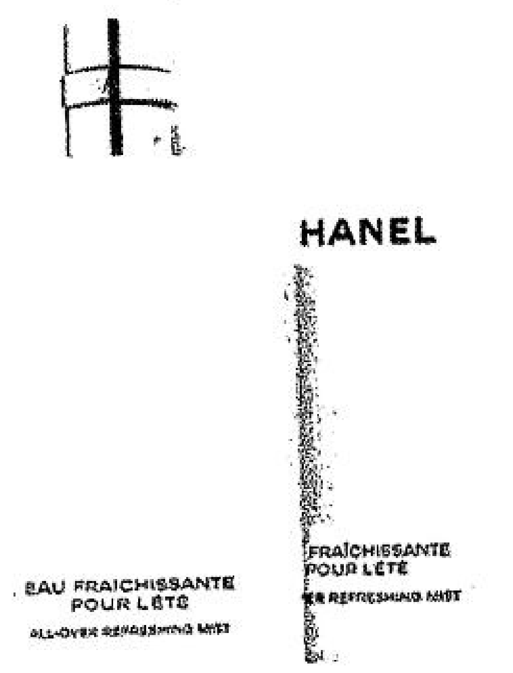
For Capricorn—independent, rock-like, hardworking, responsible, reliable, calm, cautious—the scents have to be very discreet, fresh and with much green grasses, leaves and fruits. Capricorns would love Demeter "Grass" and Demeter "Fig Leaf."

For Aquarius—either shy, sensitive, patient or exuberant, lively, exhibitionist, but always with strong opinions and convictions—the best scents are artificial scents with components of exotic woods, mosses and sharp-scented flowers. Choose Chanel No. 5, L'Occitane Vetyver, or Soular Therapy Aquarius.

For Pisces—gentle, patient, malleable, generous, good-natured, compassionate, sensitive to other people's feelings—it's sweet and powdery fragrances with various floral components like Joy by Jean Patou, L'Occitane Nerouli Rose.

All of these fragrances are available at Rustan's, Manila's shopping mecca for scents, cosmetics and toiletries. And if you're a woman who is deciding on what to give him, men's cologne would be a perfect choice. Men want to smell good and know that sweet aromas are integral ingredients in the recipe of romance.

So, come Valentine's Day, look to the stars and hop to Rustan's for romantic enlightenment. Next time, we'll try to purge that anti-Valentine cynicism.



IS she intellectual and complex? (Allure by Chanel)

Many splendored things await you.
Rustan's
Makati 813-3739 • Shangri-La Plaza 633-4636 to 39 • Alabang 850-5532-61 to 84 • Harrison Plaza [illegible] 40 to 49 • Cubao 911-2401 • Cebu 032-231-5641

Men are from Mars, Jupiter, and Pluto

IT'S NOT easy being a woman, we have evolved so much, but not in a million years will we be able to really crack the mystery surrounding men. There are so many stereotypes, so many myths, but when you come right down to it, are any of them at all helpful in the slightest?

ALLURE
HOMME
CHANEL
EAU FRAÎCHISSANTE POUR L'ÉTÉ
ALL-OVER REFRESHING TONIC

IS your man the sporty type? (Allure by Chanel)

Contrary to popular beliefs, some men do let their hearts hang out on their sleeves. A lot of them actually behave nicer, look healthier, and even dress better. A few would even fancy a snuggle time and again. Maybe a peck on the cheek to start your day right, perhaps a drive down a deserted road on a moonlit night, or even watching only an hour of the NBA playoffs instead of the usual two. Hey, we're still talking about men, right? Not miracles.

Overall, men's thoughts can really be far out—at least from a woman's point of view. They're not really all that practical, nor that sensible, just...different. So ladies, how do you read their minds? You don't. But how will you know what to give them, especially this Valentine's Day? Sure, you want to make them feel better. Maybe even look better. Well, the best you can do is think romance, and how much you love your man, then let your imagination do the rest.

Fortunately these days, there are so many things to choose from, and everything to suit different men of various personalities. From your moody boyfriend, to your strict father, to your brother, the party animal, you can almost always get them their hearts' desires.

Here are a couple of ideas that might come in handy when you're running out of gift ideas for the men in your life.

For your Granddad:

You'd want him to look dapper and spiffy, even after all these years. Plus your granddad is not one who would kowtow to the dictates of fashion anymore. So you'd just want to give him something that rolls practicality and good looks into one to suit his purposes.

Walking Shoes from Sledgers
Oleg Cassini Straw Hats
Thin two-fold Wallet from Rolf's or a Limited Edition Scott Fitzgerald Mont Blanc Pen

For your Dad:

Being the first man in your life, he deserves nothing less. Sure, he may be a bit strict at times, and he may cramp your lifestyle a bit, but he's still your Dad, and he does worry about you a lot. So give him something that'll show him how much you appreciate his love, especially this Valentine's Day.

After-shave Cologne
Business Shirt from E. Zegna
Oleg Cassini Golf Coordinates
Mont Blanc Accessories
TUMI Palm Case

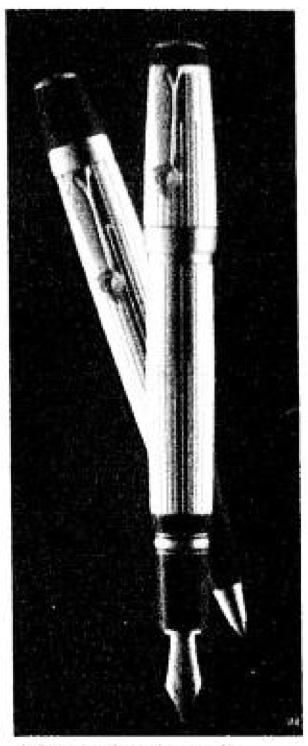
For your Uncle:

He taught you how to smoke, and lent you his CD collections that are totally out of this world. He lets you get away with almost anything, precisely because he's not your Dad. Buy him something that expresses how thankful you are that he is in your life, despite the strict curfew rules imposed by his brother, your father.

Small Leather Goods from Mont Blanc and Oleg Cassini
Philishave Shaving Accessories
CD Cases from the Discovery Shop

For your Brother:

Here's the guy who beat you to the last piece of chocolate all the time. Him who gets even with you by gluing your fingers together while you sleep. Him who makes sure your parents get to hear about your failing grade before you even get home from school. But as you got older, it was he whom you run to when your first boyfriend broke your heart, and it was he who offered his wide shoulders for you to cry on. To your brother who threatens to clobber every boy in your life, unless they live up to his expectations, you need to give him something more fun and outrageous, yet still within the confines of fashion coolness.



FOR signing those all-important documents (Boheme Je T'aime by Mont Blanc)

Jeans from Just Cavalli and Cotton Belt
Gadgets from the Discovery Shop

For your Boyfriend:

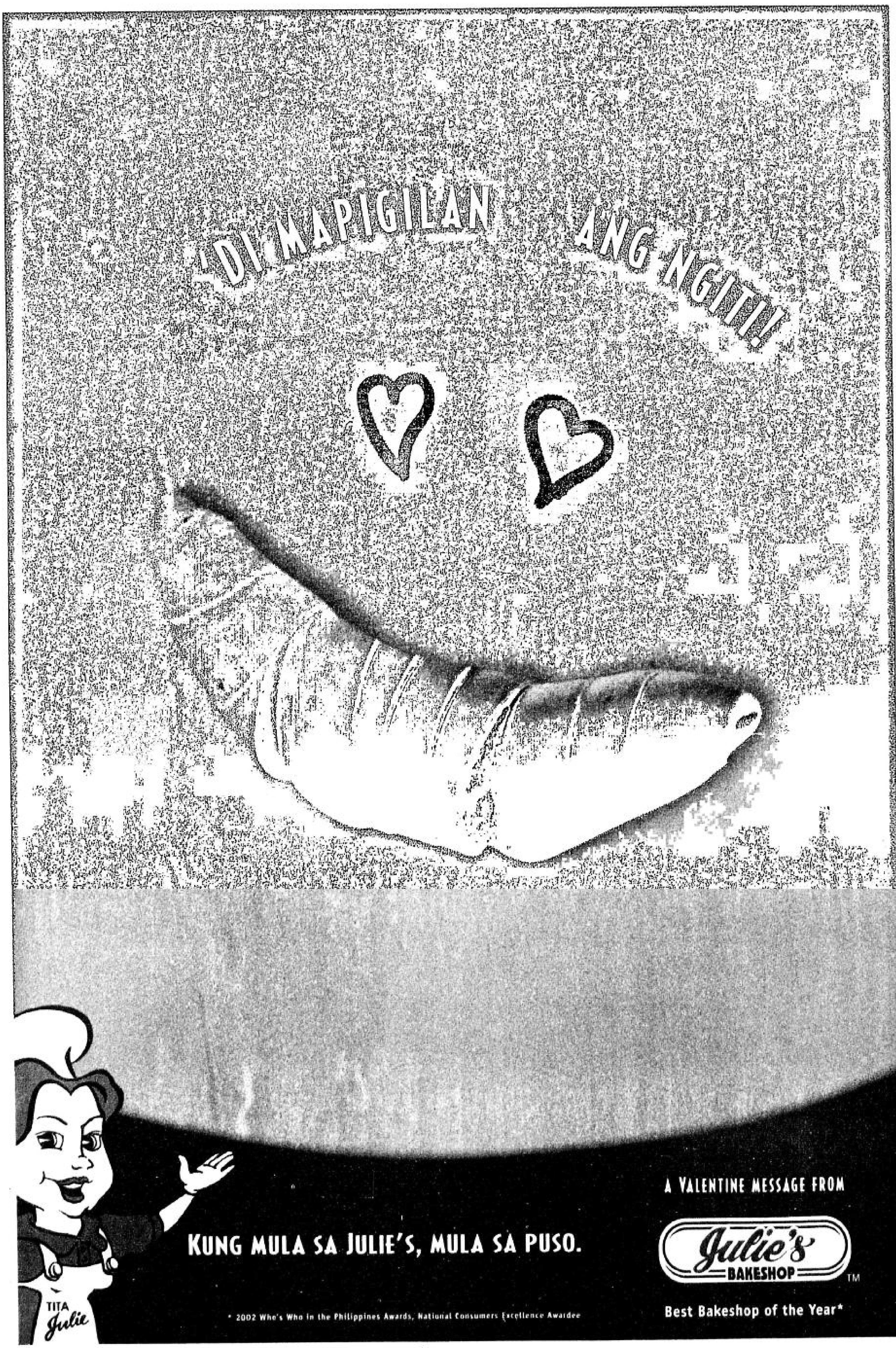
Ahh yes, the man in your life (for now). Wouldn't it be great if you could get him whatever it is he really wants. Admittedly, he can be really moody at times, and mysterious, and cold, and childish; but over all, he's the one who can make you really laugh out loud, and he's the only one who can forgive your little offenses (like spilling beer on his silk shirt) and take your brattiness in stride. Give him these fabulous gifts to show how much your love and appreciate him.

Neckties from Male Ego
Shaving Accessories
Clock of Different Shapes and Sizes at Discovery Shop
Casual Coordinates from MR
Faconnable Belt

There's actually this exquisite line of fine tailoring which every man in your life would feel most at home—Zegna, not only does it have a long list of celebrity clientele, it has fine fabrics and classic designs that are sure to make any man stand taller, and look smarter.

And just in case you need help in picking out the right choices for the men in your life, go to Rustan's and let their friendly salesladies help your through your gift-buying. You'll definitely find everything they'll ever want or need there. And once you get your gift right, maybe, just maybe, you might be able to push back your curfew a few hours this Valentine's Day.

Contrary to popular beliefs, some men do let their hearts hang out on their sleeves. A lot of them actually behave nicer, look healthier, and even dress better


'DI MAPIGILAN ANG NGITI!
A VALENTINE MESSAGE FROM
KUNG MULA SA JULIE'S, MULA SA PUSO.
Julie's BAKESHOP TM
Best Bakeshop of the Year*
* 2002 Who's Who in the Philippines Awards, National Consumers Excellence Awardee
TITA Julie

Sweet treats from Julie's Bakeshop

IN LIFE, it is the simple things that are always the sweetest. For example, it's the quality time we spend with our loved ones, our family or our friends. Whatever it is, showing care is not just in giving expensive things but rather in the sharing of the simple things in life.

One of the ways that Filipinos love to get together is during "eating-time." Our dining tables are places where the warmth and love of the family is always felt. And what better way to share love than by putting sweet breads from Julie's Bakeshop on the table for everyone.

Julie's Bakeshop has a wide selection of mouthwatering sweet breads to choose from. There's the all-time favorite ensaymada, the sugarcoated graciosa, a whole selection of simple yet delicious pies to the tempting chocolate crinkles.

Apart from these sweet treats, Julie's Bakeshop also has pan de sal, pan leche, loaf breads, cheese bread, king rolls and a lot more. All of these baked fresh just for you.

And best of all, because most of the more than 300 Julie's Bakeshop are in almost all communities in the country, all these treats are just around the corner.

Say it with roses

By Marlet D. Salazar

AH VALENTINE! There's no other time of the year when flower shops rule. When roses of all colors are visible just about everywhere. When people would flash their bouquet of roses eliciting envious stares from others. And when men would check their budget to get the loveliest blooms for their special someone.

Flower shops, like former ramp model Bing Pimentel's The Florist, are hard at work weeks before V-day to meet their clients' orders. As always, roses are the most in demand flowers on Valentine's Day.

"Most Filipinos are still conservative and traditional," Pimentel said, "so they really prefer red, or sometimes deep red, roses."

This Fine Arts graduate likes to add a little more twist to the type of flower arrangements The Florist creates. She uses cute bears or colorful balloons as these enhance a typical arrangement. "If I were in the recipient's shoes, I would really get kilig if I receive a rose with a little bear," Pimentel said.

The Florist caters mostly to students of Ateneo de Manila, Miriam College, and University of the Philippines, as it is located just across Gate 3 of ADMU.

Although locally grown flowers are cheaper compared to the imported ones, the latter is often much preferred because of size. The size of the bulb of an imported rose petal can reach up to two inches compared with the local ones that grow only at least an inch. And when an imported flower goes on full bloom it can open to about 3 inches.

"Locally grown flowers are at par with imported because, except for the size, the beauty and the color are comparable," Pimentel pointed out.

Although Pimentel doesn't do much arranging anymore, she still relies on her own creativity when evaluating her staff member's work. Everything depends on the right mix of color. "It's always a matter of creativity in putting together raw materials and knowing the recipient's personality," she said.

On ordinary occasions, the spring arrangement is the most popular. It is called as such because of the combination of spring flowers like Liliums, Mums, Carnation, Roses and Gerberas. Spring arrangement is usually given to people with charming personalities.

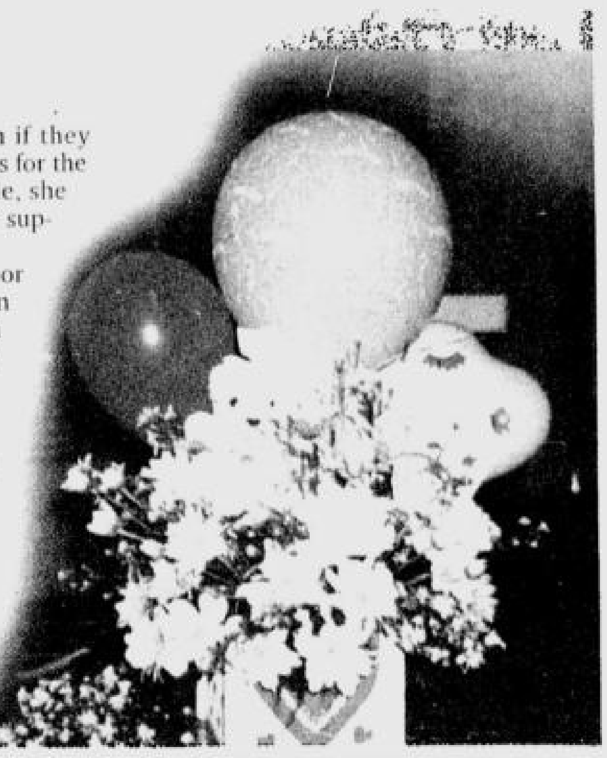
Aside from roses, Malaysian mums run a close second as the most saleable among students. It is much cheaper and is also available in different colors.

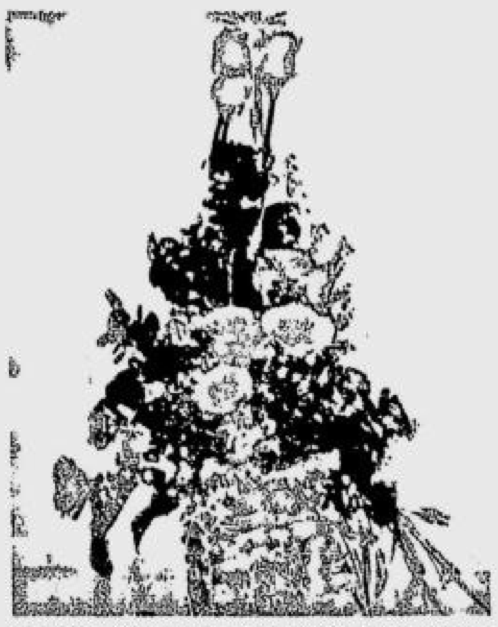
Because the demand of flowers is at its peak at this time of the year, it is expected that prices would increase. Pimentel said even if they didn't want to increase prices for the benefit of her loyal clientele, she has no choice because some suppliers charge more.

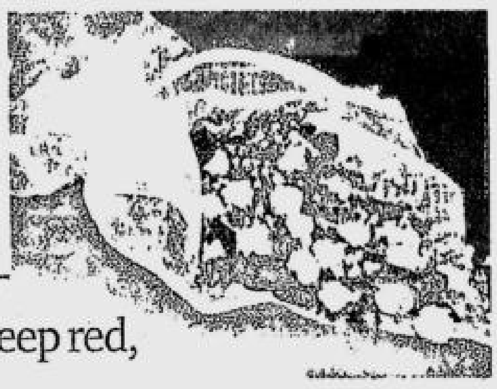
The Florist sells one rose or carnation at P180, a dozen costs P1,980. A long stem rose is available at P410 a piece; one dozen is P4,500.

Other types of flowers available at The Florist are tulips, P290 for one piece, and P3,200 one dozen; mums or gerberas, P80, one dozen is P880; anthurium, P165, and a dozen is sold at P880; lilium, P180, a dozen for P1,980; and stargazer is P255, a dozen for P3,000. These rates are until today only.

> "Most Filipinos are still conservative and traditional," Pimentel said, "so they really prefer red, or sometimes deep red, roses."



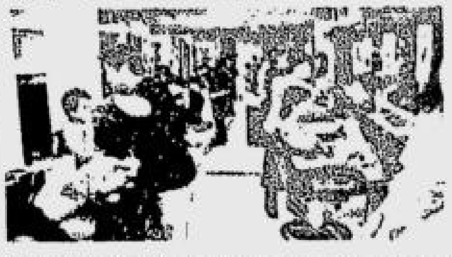




Ayala Center's Special Treats for Valentines Day

Piandre Salon

G/L, Greenbelt 1



GIVE the gift that is truly priceless this Valentines Day with Piandre Salon. Just in time for the day of the hearts, Piandre Salon launches the Piandre Gift Card where several of its popular services—from relaxing hair and scalp treatments, foot massages and facials, to creative shading and styling services—are now available as gift certificates. Piandre Salon is also offering 50-percent discount on makeup by selected artists from Feb. 14 to Mar. 31. And from Feb. 12 to 14, come in two's and get 20-percent off on your total bill.

Ding Velayo Inc.

2/L, Glorietta 1

JEWELRY are fine gifts this season of love and to celebrate the month of the hearts, Ding Velayo will be giving huge discounts of up to 40 percent on cash sales for the whole month of February. Ding Velayo is a fine jewelry store that sells a wide variety of top-quality diamonds, pearls, colored stones and gold jewelry. It offers a wide selection of finely crafted jewelry for even the most discriminating shopper. Its Glorietta outlet is being managed by Evelyn Velayo Talag and is assisted by a well-trained staff that includes goldsmiths on hand to serve all your jewelry needs. The shop also accepts made-to-order jewelry and can do jewelry repair jobs while you wait. Be sure to visit Ding Velayo this Valentines!

Jesi Mendez Salon For Men and Women

G/L, Park Square 1

LOOK and feel your best and make Valentines Day truly memorable with Jesi Mendez Salon For Men and Women. Look your best on this special day of hearts. From Feb. 10 to 28, Jesi Mendez is offering Twogetherness: Cut & Color Valentine Promo where all lady customers who get a cut and color, (color and highlights) with a male companion (limited to one companion) will have her man's haircut for free. That would be an awesome treat for your man! Jesi Mendez is located at Park Square 1.

Infini Line Boutique

G/L, Glorietta 1

Valentines Day would be truly exciting for ladies when they do their shopping at Infini Line Boutique. To celebrate the season, Infini Line is offering 25-percent discount on all items on cash purchases. Promo runs until Feb. 16. Infini Line Boutique carries a wide range of ladies ready-to-wear outfits, from casual to elegant, that fit all ladies perfectly whether she's a size 8 to 18. Infini Line is located at the Ground Floor of Glorietta 1 with tel. nos. 892-2655 or its head office at 532-2945.

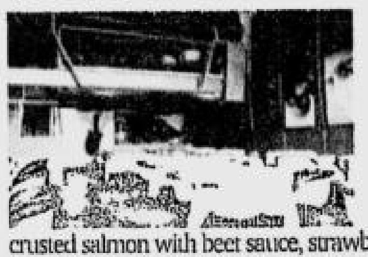
MYLK (My Little Kitchen)

2/L, Greenbelt 3

MY Little Kitchen at Greenbelt 3 offers the perfect setting for a Valentine dinner. This special buffet consists of tossini topped with cashew bell pepper pesto and julienne of cucumber, cream of spinach soup topped with toasted almonds, papayas with mix greens and arugula with herb dressing and topped with feta cheese; choice of lapu-lapu with lemon anchovies, capers and rosemary on garlic-flavored angel hair or beef tenderloin with truffle cream red wine sauce on mashed potatoes and gratinated bacon-onion, vanilla panna cotta. All are served with coffee or tea. The special Valentine treat would be on Feb. 13 and 14 for only P750 per person (without wine) or P995 per person (with wine). First seating would be at 6:30 p.m. and the second at 9 p.m. Reservations may be made through phone no. 757-4802 or fax no. 757-4803.

Restaurant 12

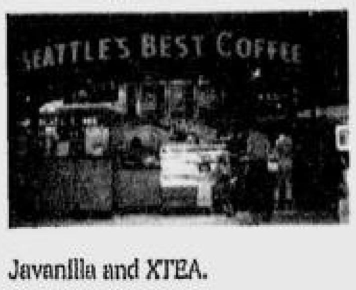
G/L, Greenbelt 2



Treat your loved ones with a special Valentines Day menu at Restaurant 12, Greenbelt 2. Known for its wide variety of continental cuisine by its guest and executive chefs, its Valentines Day menu will be prepared by its guest chef Henry Canoy and its executive chef Noel Silverio. Henry Canoy's Valentine menu consists of crab salad with apple gelee, lobster cappuccino, raddish crusted salmon with beet sauce, strawberry daquiose, fresh strawberries in dark and white courvature, and a choice of coffee or tea. Noel Silverio's Valentines Menu consists of warm salad of duck confit over pate en brioche, consomme of 4 mushrooms en croute, roast angus rib-eye, au jus, pomme dauphinoise, strawberry daquoise, fresh srawberries in dark and white courvature, and choice of coffee or tea. Guests who will come on Valentines Day will be treated to a Moet & Chandon Brut Imperial Champagne and a rose for the ladies.

Seattle's Best Coffee

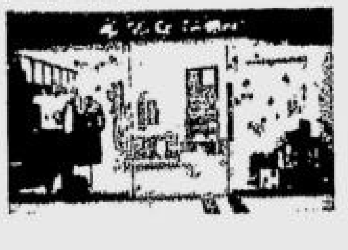
G/L, Greenbelt 1 & 3



Seattle's Best Coffee is definitely a special place to stay this Valentines Day for people who do not want to spend the day eating in a restaurant or are tired of the regular bar scene. Known for its bold flavor and smooth taste but never bitter, Seattle's Best brand of coffee is distinct. Its warm, inviting atmosphere and friendly service in the cafés gives consumers the power of choice. One of the pioneer roasters/retailers in the US, it is known for its "Northern European Roast." Located at Greenbelt 1 and Greenbelt 3, Seattle's Best best-selling drink includes white chocolate mocha, cappuccino, Javanilla and XTEA.

& Dolce&Gabbana

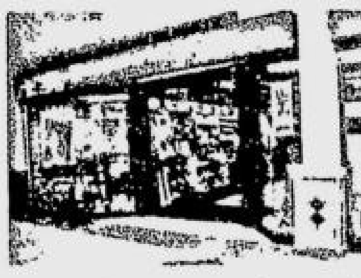
G/L, Glorietta 4



BE sure to delight yourself and your loved ones this Valentines Day with awesome treats from & Dolce&Gabbana. From Feb. 7 to 28, & Dolce&Gabbana is taking 30-percent off on all accessories which includes belts, bags, wallets, shoes and caps. Located at Level 1, Glorietta 4, it's a sure place to go this season of love. & Dolce&Gabbana, which comes from the main collection of Dolce&Gabbana in Italy, is a new line of men's and ladies' apparel which taps the younger market. & is presented in a spirit which is young and fresh, renewed in its variety of forms, mix of colors and attention to detail. The brand represents a collection of clothes from classic to trendy, each with its own unique identity.

Kameraworld

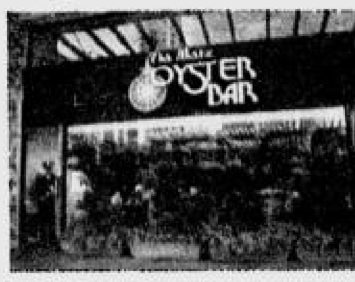
G/L, Greenbelt 1



A picture paints a thousand words and it's truly worth keeping especially those taken during Valentines Day. For this, Kameraworld's Value Treats is giving away freebies and big discounts on its developing and printing charges. Big K developing and printing now costs only P299 for 24 shots film, lower than the actual price of P341 or get much when you develop a 36 shots film where you'll only be charged P359, lower than the actual price of P419. You get this plus an Organizer Album free. For Big K developing and printing plus My Buddy Studio Sitting, have your 24 shots film developed and printed for a price of P275 from the actual price P336 or for a 36 shots film for only P352 from the actual price of P414.

Via Mare Oyster Bar

G/L, Greenbelt 3



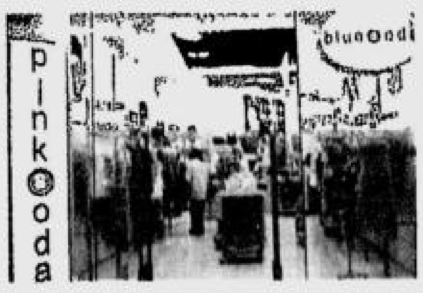
Make your Valentines Day a treat with your special someone at Via Mare Oyster Bar. Via Mare, known for its classical and innovative approach to its cuisine, is offering a special menu for Valentines Day. Via Mare Oyster Bar will be featuring a four-course dinner consisting of an appetizer of Arugula and Prosciuto served with tomatoes and shiitake mushrooms on a crisp tortilla, a red and green capsicum soup to follow, a choice of Sesame Salmon or Hickory Prime Beef Tenderloin for the main course, and Strawberry Romanoff to end the meal. Guests who will come for dinner will get a glass of white wine or red wine for free. Scented candles will also be given for lady guests. For reservations please call 757-4022 to 23.

Pink & Blue Soda

G/L, Glorietta 2

pink Soda
blue Soda

Shop your heart out at Pink and Blue Soda at Glorietta 2 this Valentine season. Get 20 to 50 percent off on selected items on Feb. 14, 15 and 16, 2003.



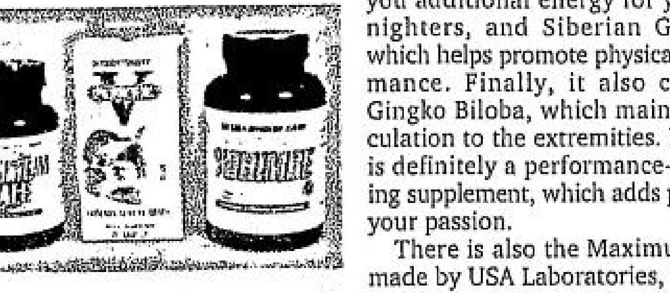
pink & blue love
on selected items
just present this coupon
Valid dates: Feb. 14, 15, & 16, 2003
pink Soda
blue Soda

AYALA CENTER
GLORIETTA • GREENBELT

ADVT

Spice up your Valentine's Day

ARE you naughty or nice? How about giving your loved one the gift of passion, pleasure and fun this Valentines Day. Health Express has the perfect gift for you and it will definitely make your Valentine night sizzle.



One unique and perfect way to add excitement to your night is through Power V. This unique supplement from Natures Bounty is created for both men and women who are looking to add some spice to their life. It combines the sensual properties of the Yohimbee tree, which has been known to increase libido levels, stimulates body's own testosterone levels, increase stamina, strength and in men increase erectile function. It is combined with guarna, a shrub-like plant native to Brazil, which gives you additional energy for your all-nighters, and Siberian Ginseng, which helps promote physical performance. Finally, it also contains Gingko Biloba, which maintain circulation to the extremities. Power V is definitely a performance-enhancing supplement, which adds power to your passion.

There is also the Maximum Male made by USA Laboratories, which is the most comprehensive supplement for men to hit the market in this century. It also contains Yohimbe the only FDA approved ingredient for erectile dysfunction and is a tremendous breakthrough for natural testosterone release. Studies show that this also may increase muscle mass, libido levels, strength and sex drive. Maximum Male is especially beneficial for men over the age of 25. As men age, various natural abilities tend to decrease at an alarming rate. Maximum Male helps to reverse this course and improve these functions through its high potency formulation. Maximum Male provides incredible results and allows men to live their life to its fullest potential.

So how about the gift of nights and days and nights to remember. For all those who want to be at your best and have a memorable Valentine's Day, pass by a Health Express store located at Glorietta 3, Greenbelt I, Galleria Mall, Tutuban Center, Alabang Town Center, Festival Mall, Robinsons Ermita, Robinsons Place Novaliches, Big R Sta. Rosa, SM Davao, SM Iloilo, Robinsons Supermarket Bacolod, Robinsons Town Mall Los Baños, or call us at 892-7978, 840-1855, 892-9364.

Romancing the bargains at the Depot

FEEL the passion and romance this love month as Designer Depot, the first factory outlet concept mall in the country, presents its 5-day Valentine Sale entitled "Romancing the Bargains" on Feb. 12 to 16 at our existing branches in Quirino Avenue and Shaw Blvd.

Get those in style and affordable branded apparels to show your terms of endearment to your special loved ones and satisfy your crave for haggling, as non-branded outlets will show its tenderness by giving additional discounts to downpour for the fashionable romantics.

Listen and get intimate to the timeless love songs that captured our hearts and memory lanes as Designer Depot in-house bands will belt out those smash hits from the 70's to 90's on Feb. 14, 15 and 16 at Designer Depot – Shaw Blvd. branch from 6 p.m. onwards.

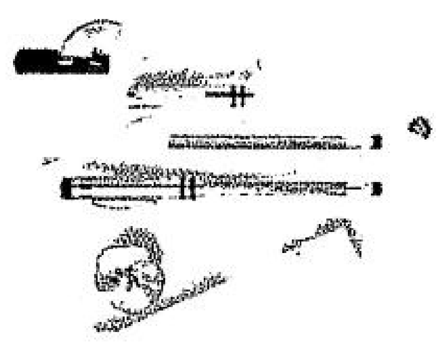
For inquiries, please call 564-1329 for Quirino and 535-5297 for Shaw.

FOOD TRIP AT BANDA FOREST

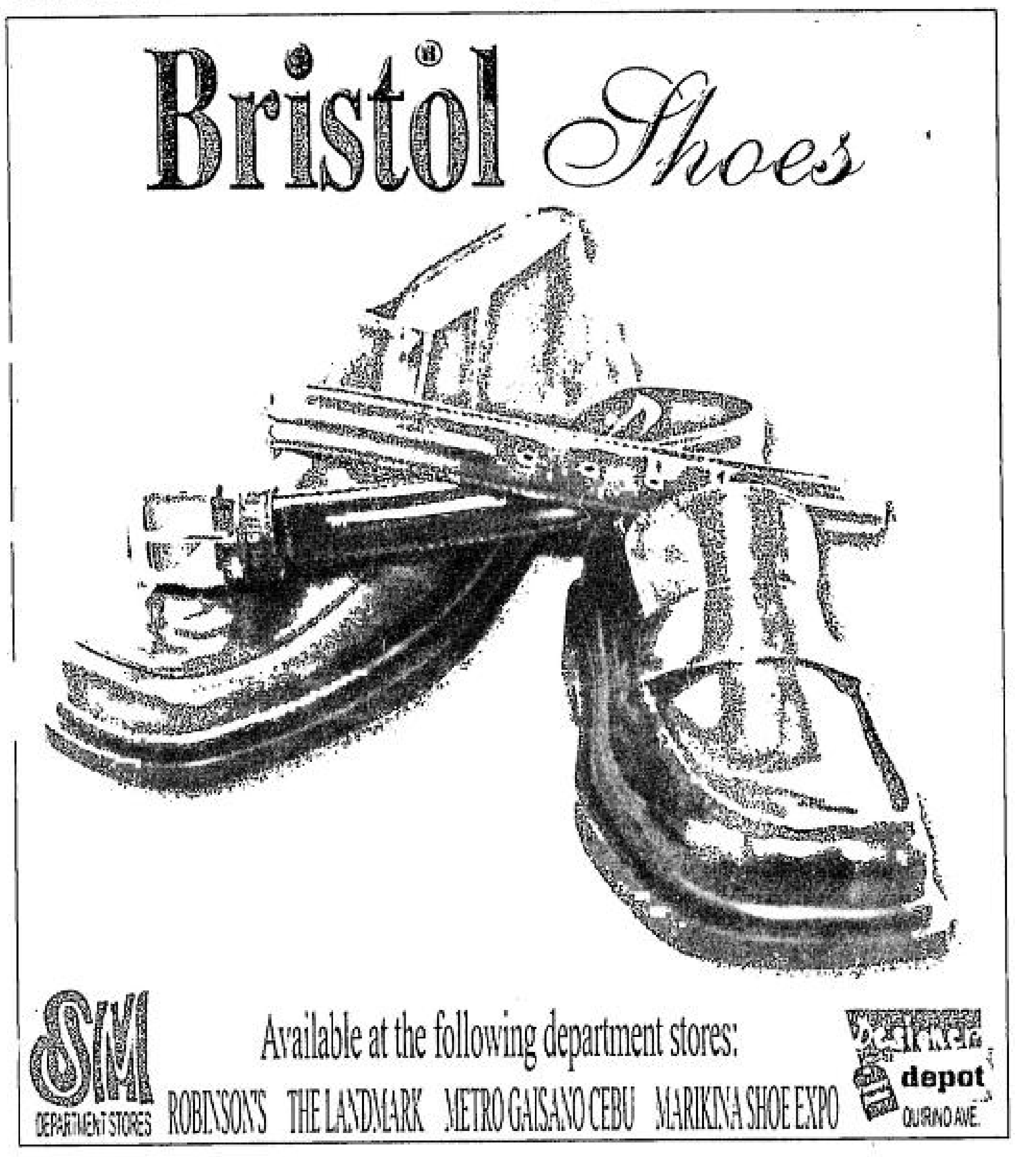
LIVE at BANDA FOREST
TRUE FAITH SHOW

It's a feast for the taste on Feb. 14, Valentine's Day, at Banda Forest. Bite into its "Eat All You Can" promo before you plunge into that dream romantic date or better yet take that food trip as your date itself. Have an endless serving of the all-time Filipino favorites such as mangga't bagoong, pepino salad in vinegar, kamatis at sibuyas, sabaw ng baboy (sinigang), adobong baboy, afritadang manok, inihaw na tilapia, ginisang sayote, pancit canton, lumpiang shanghai, tortang talong and fresh fruits – all at only P295 net per person. While you enjoy the food and your sweet little nothings, revel in the live band that will play in the house. Groove or smooch to the music and have your most memorable Valentine's date ever. The Eat All You Can promo is open from 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Also, watch out for the live performance of True Faith on Feb. 19. The band, known for some of today's hottest pop tunes, will play the singles from their latest album "Grace." Show starts at 10 p.m. Ticket is priced affordably at only P100. Banda Forest is located at T.M. Kalaw cor. Parade St., Ermita, Manila. For inquiries and reservations, call 400-7438 to 39.

PERFECT PENCIL IDEA AND A BOX OF CHOCOLATES



This February, Faber-Castell offers a special promo as it introduces quality and smooth writing for the young professionals with the Perfect Pencil Idea Design. To celebrate the Valentine season, every purchase of Perfect Pencil Idea Design comes with a free boxful of chocolates. Promo is good until supply lasts. Specially designed with a built-in sharpener, the Perfect Pencil Idea Design features a graphite pencil with eraser that guarantees no lead breakage. This pencil is also equipped with a durable sharpening knife and an extender made of aluminum with cap in UFO design. The Perfect Pencil Idea also comes in gift packs and available gift sets. The Faber-Castell Perfect Pencil Idea Design is now available at all office supply section of SM North Edsa, SM Makati, SM Megamall and National Bookstore branches in Glorietta, Alabang, Greenbelt, Quezon Avenue and The Podium.



The quality of time

TEARS run down her face. It is their first Valentine together and he isn't there with her yet. Maybe he forgot. Or maybe he just doesn't care. It could be that he doesn't really love her. She feels insecure. See how slight tardiness causes a woman's heart to break? Being there means she is loved and respected. She needs that.

And he? She asked him to fetch her after work. He has a planned surprise for her. He set up a candlelit dinner for them at his condo rooftop. He is simply beaming with excitement! But she said, "Honey, could you wait for me awhile? I got late and I had to make up for it". Of course, he waited. He waited for a minute... then two... 10... 40... an hour... more... until he knew the candlelit dinner was as cold as the treatment he was getting from her. Feelings of insecurity and unimportance gnaw at him. That hurts. He needs her to be there, too.

Lovers know that time is more than minutes and hours. It's about being there, being remembered, being together.

This Valentine, give your lover what you both need to stay together: strength, consistence, loyalty, and quality time.

And maybe all you really need is a good watch.

Visit Time Depot at Level 3, Rockwell Power Plant Mall, Level 5, Shangri-La Plaza,

Level 2, Robinson's Plaza Manila, ground floor, SM City Fairview, ground floor, SM City Davao, ground floor, SM City Pampanga, upper ground floor, Building B, SM City Bicutan, and Level 2, SM North Edsa. There you can find great timepieces from Alfex, Casio, Fila, G-Shock, Nike, and Oakley.

Don't let time set you apart. Buy a watch and get your second one of at least equal value for 50 percent off. Promo is from Feb. 10 to 16 only. Don't be late this time, and have a Happy Valentine's Day.

Free blood pressure check at Mercury Drug

MACROPHARMA Corporation joins hands with Mercury Drug to conduct the 2nd Annual Blood Pressure Check on Feb. 14 at selected Mercury Drug branches.

Macropharma and Mercury Drug believe that better healthcare should be made available for all Filipinos. Mercury delivers on this promise by making medicine available in its numerous outlets nationwide while Macropharma brings in innovative health products like Circulan, and herbal food supplement which helps improve the blood circulation in the body.

Apart from the free blood pressure check, customers will also learn how good blood circulation impact on one's total health. As a bonus, for every purchase of a box of Circulan 60's, one receives three red roses.

So on the day of hearts, don't forget to drop by at any of the participating Mercury Drug outlets for your free blood pressure check-up and the chance to get three red roses for your special someone. Participating outlets include Shangri-La Mall, Edsa; Greenhills Shopsville, Ortigas; Festival Mall, Alabang; Greenbelt, Makati; Robinsons Galleria, Ortigas; Cubao Romullo, Scout Borromeo, Quezon City and; Sta. Cruz, Nagcarlan, Laguna.

CASIO
LK-43 KEY LIGHTING KEYBOARD
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Master the timing of melody notes
Step 2
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- Song Memory
- Voice Fingering Guide

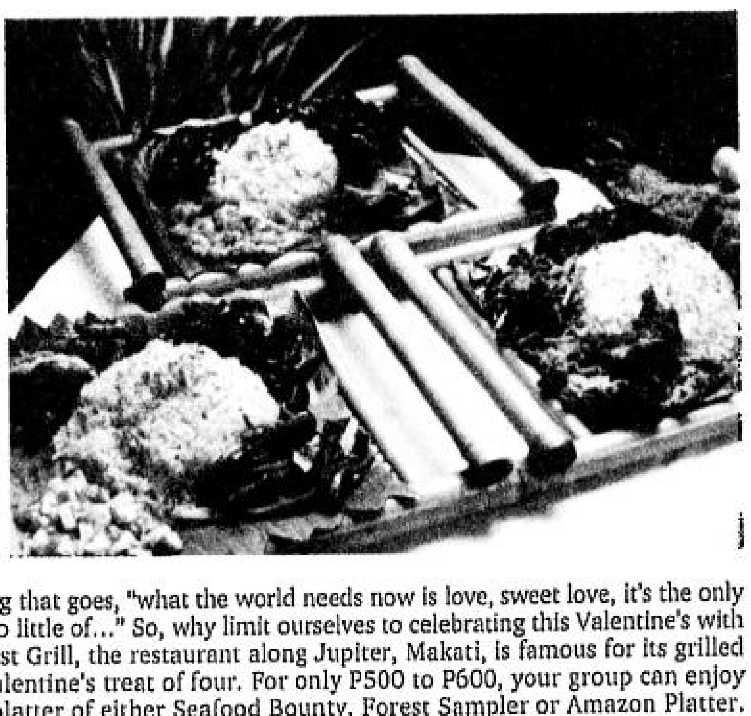
Key Lighting Keyboard models for beginners and those with no music background. Complete with built-in tunes that range from pops to the classics, and the Key Lighting Systems that reaches you the notes you need to play.

Discover your musical ability. Develop your talent. Celebrate the joy of learning music at Casio Music Circle. Professional music teachers will help you unleash your passion in music and be who you want to be. Visit, learn, and have fun at Casio Music Circle at level 2, City Center Bldg 328 Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills San Juan, Metro Manila or call at number 705-1519.

Garden wedding set-up at wedding fair

For the first time in the wedding fairs, a special garden wedding set-up will be featured during the two-day event, "May Kasal sa Forbes Park" on Feb. 15 to 16 at Santuario de San Antonio Parish Center, Forbes Park, Makati City. The church garden area will be the venue of this showcase. Future bride and groom will have a chance to see and choose among the exhibitors the real style of a garden wedding presentation. Also featured on this garden wedding set-up is the unique wedding motif by Organic Caterer. Close to fantasy style, the set-up will use all natural product accented by vegetables, fruits and aphrodisiacs. A free wine tasting will be hosted by Louis Maclean Far East Limited utilizing a 100 percent alcohol free bubblers, Chamdor. For more details about the event please contact Philtrade Exhibits at 8207879 or 8201570. Photo shows Chamdor Bubblers from Louis Maclean Far East Inc.

Enjoy Forest Grill on Valentine's Day

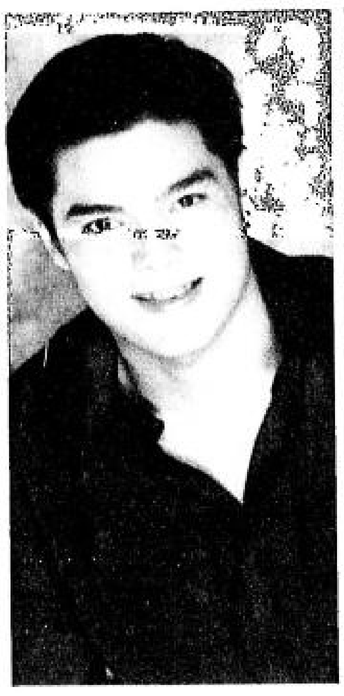


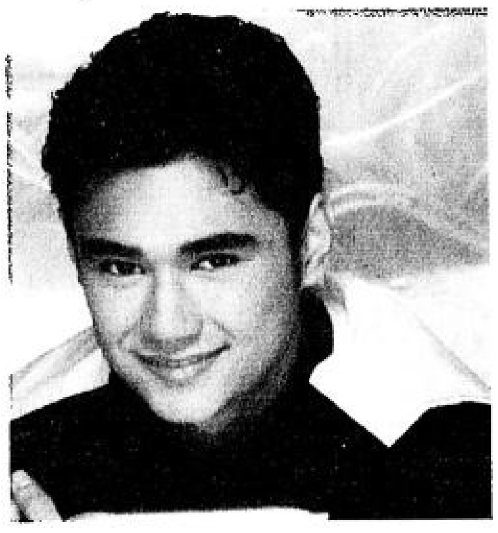
Valentine's Day is no longer just limited to lovers. Valentine's has evolved to become a "celebration of love" not only between two people of the opposite sex, but between parents and their children, grandparents and grandchildren, among friends, and just about anybody and everybody who has love in their hearts. Now more than ever, when the world seems to be reeling from so much chaos, should we feel the meaning of the song that goes, "what the world needs now is love, sweet love, it's the only thing that there's just to little of..." So, why limit ourselves to celebrating this Valentine's with only one person? Forest Grill, the restaurant along Jupiter, Makati, is famous for its grilled food, offers a great Valentine's treat of four. For only P500 to P600, your group can enjoy Forest Grill's special platter of either Seafood Bounty, Forest Sampler or Amazon Platter. These platters are complete meals of grilled chicken, seafood, pork, and vegetables good for four adults, including a refreshing glass of iced tea for each. And for the ladies, free chocolate truffles. Forest Grill is at #12 Jupiter St., Bel-Air IV, Makati. Call in for reservation at 896-5240 or 897-7949. Forest Grill, where good food need not be expensive.

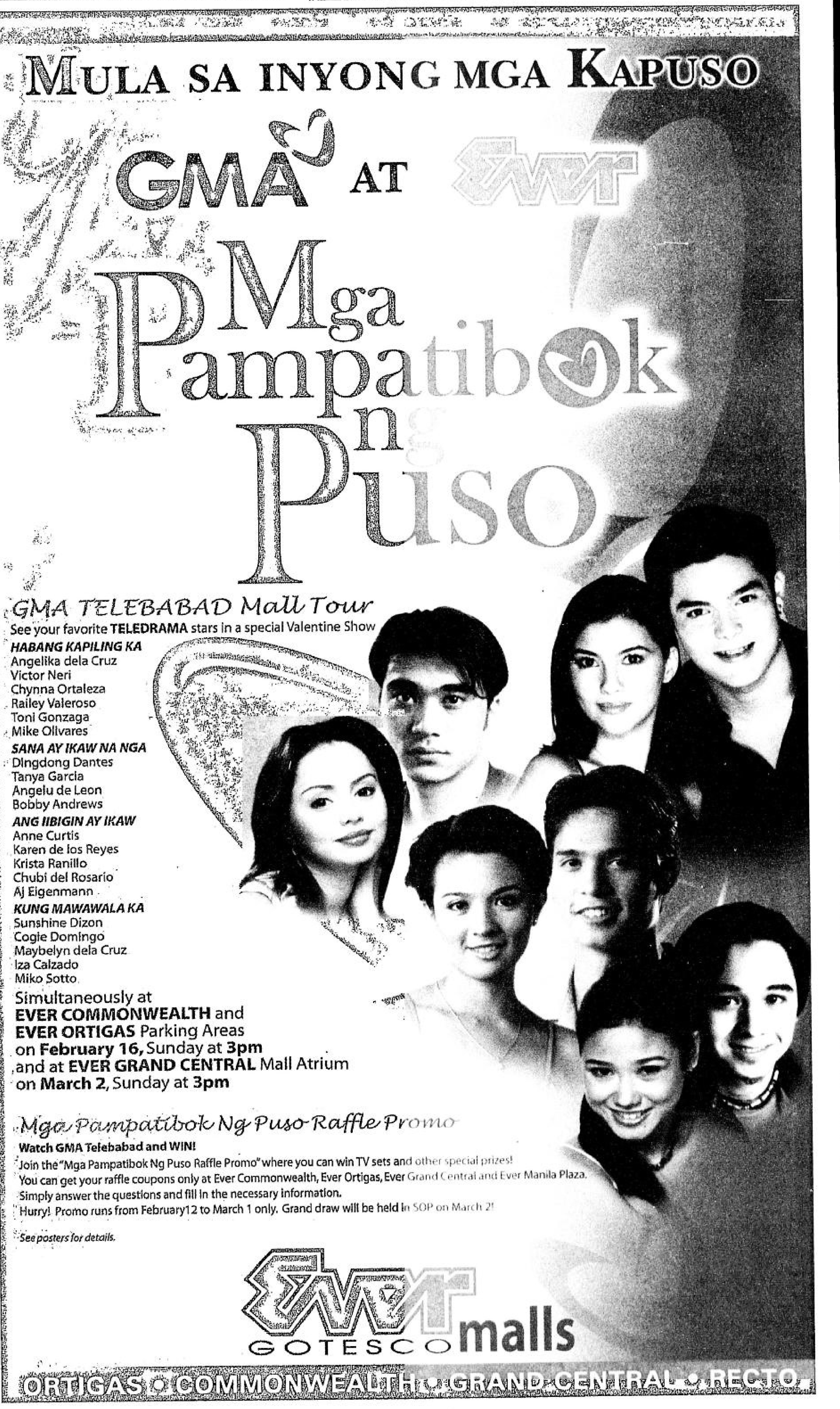
GMA soap stars at the Ever Gotesco malls

IT'S going to be a star-studded Valentine as your favorite teledrama stars perform in a special Valentine show simultaneously at the Ever Gotesco Ortigas and Ever Gotesco Commonwealth parking areas, 3:00 PM on February 16 and at Ever Gotesco Grand Central, Mall Atrium on March 2, at 3:00 PM.

Dubbed as the GMA TELEBABAD MALL TOUR, among the stars you will get to see up close are the cast of GMA's top-rating teledramas like "Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga" like Dingdong Dantes, Tanya Garcia, Bobby Andrews and Angelu de Leon; "Kung Mawawala Ka" led by Cogie Domingo, Sunshine Dizon, Miko Sotto, Maybelline dela Cruz and Izza Calzado; "Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw" led by Karen delos Reyes, Chubi del Rosario, AJ Eigenmann, Krista Ranillo and Anne Curtis and "Habang Kapiling Ka" led by Victor Neri, Angelika dela Cruz, Reily Valeroso, China Ortaleza, Toni Gonzaga and Mike Olivarez. The simultaneous mall shows are part of Ever Gotesco Malls Valentine offering in cooperation with GMA-7. Among the other activities connected with this is the "FAN MAIL," where for the whole month of February, fans get to write to their teledrama idols and drop their fan mails at designated drop boxes at all Ever Gotesco Malls. And to cap off a romantic day, there will be a special afternoon variety show for all. And best of all is the "MGA PAMPATIBOK NG PUSO" raffle promo, where participants can win TV sets and other special prizes. Get your raffle coupons at Ever Gotesco Commonwealth, Ever Gotesco Ortigas, Ever Gotesco Grand Central and Ever Manila Plaza simply by answering our contest questions and filling out the necessary information. Promo will run from February 12 to March 1 only so hurry up and get your raffle tickets now! Celebrate the month of love at Ever Gotesco Malls for the most romantic, fun-filled Valentines ever!







MULA SA INYONG MGA KAPUSO

GMA AT EVER

Mga Pampatibok ng Puso

GMA TELEBABAD Mall Tour

See your favorite **TELEDRAMA** stars in a special Valentine Show

HABANG KAPILING KA
Angelika dela Cruz
Victor Neri
Chynna Ortaleza
Railey Valeroso
Toni Gonzaga
Mike Olivares

SANA AY IKAW NA NGA
Dingdong Dantes
Tanya Garcia
Angelu de Leon
Bobby Andrews

ANG IIBIGIN AY IKAW
Anne Curtis
Karen de los Reyes
Krista Ranillo
Chubi del Rosario
Aj Eigenmann

KUNG MAWAWALA KA
Sunshine Dizon
Cogie Domingo
Maybelyn dela Cruz
Iza Calzado
Miko Sotto

Simultaneously at
EVER COMMONWEALTH and
EVER ORTIGAS Parking Areas
on **February 16,** Sunday at **3pm**
and at **EVER GRAND CENTRAL** Mall Atrium
on **March 2**, Sunday at **3pm**

Mga Pampatibok Ng Puso Raffle Promo

Watch GMA Telebabad and WIN!

Join the "Mga Pampatibok Ng Puso Raffle Promo" where you can win TV sets and other special prizes!
You can get your raffle coupons only at Ever Commonwealth, Ever Ortigas, Ever Grand Central and Ever Manila Plaza.
Simply answer the questions and fill in the necessary information.
Hurry! Promo runs from February12 to March 1 only. Grand draw will be held in SOP on March 2!

See posters for details.

EVER GOTESCO malls

ORTIGAS • COMMONWEALTH • GRAND CENTRAL • RECTO

Happy Valentine

Shop to win for love

ladies' accessories

watsons

men's wear

stationery

men's accessories

bags

ladies' shoes

ladies' wear

philippine crafts

homeworld

over ₱1MILLION

shopping money in SM Gift Cheques at stake

Total of 18 winners ₱30,000

[illegible]

shopping money in SM Gift Cheques

Your ₱300 purchase from Feb 1 - 16 gives you the chance to win!

double the prize if you are an HSBC cardholder

Use any of your HSBC credit cards and get three (3) raffle tickets for every ₱300 spend

"We've got it all for you"

the Perfect Gift

SM DEPARTMENT STORE

HSBC
The world's local bank

QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • [illegible] • LAS PIÑAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU • DAVAO • CAGAYAN DE ORO • BICUTAN

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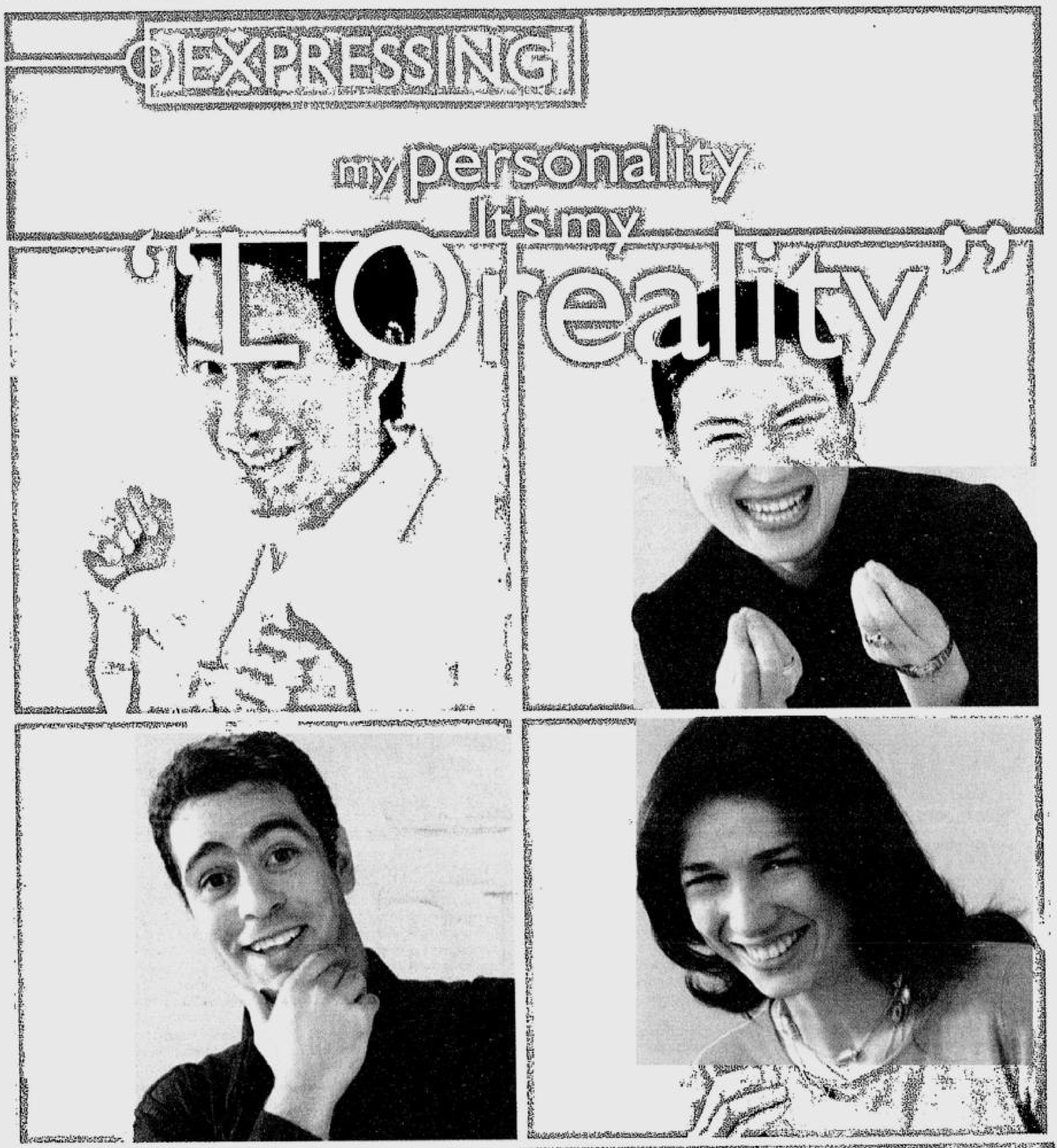
L'ORÉAL

Pedal to the metal

'Putting pedal to the metal', the racing term, aptly describes French cosmetic giant L'Oreal, a performance driven, highly competitive and innovation-obsessed company. With 17 years of double-digit growth, there seems to be no stopping racing aficionado L'Oreal President and CEO Lindsay Owen-Jones 'global makeover' mission. L'Oreal's formula for success stretches across oceans to L'Oreal Philippines, which has shown exceptional growth—more than threefold since 1998. In difficult times like these, one has to ask: What is the secret for this speedy ascent? L'Oreal insiders speak of challenging the 'Big Corporation Disease' and tell of a corporate culture with values not often associated with mega conglomerates, such as belief in working in 'small groups', 'the right to be wrong' and putting value on the individual's entrepreneurial spirit. Couple this with L'Oreal's belief in constant innovation evident in L'Oreal's investment in R&D amounting to 3% of its group sales, and you have your answer.



L'ORÉAL PROFESSIONNEL
KÉRASTASE PARIS
L'ORÉAL PARIS
MAYBELLINE NEW YORK
GARNIER
RALPH LAUREN
GIORGIO ARMANI
LANCÔME PARIS
shu uemura
(cacharel) PARIS
Guy Laroche Paris

YOU are like no one else.
And obviously, you want to work for a company, which is like no other.

Imagine... L'Oréal. A range of international brands, unique in the world of beauty, supported by cutting edge research. Company facts 2001: 493 patents filed, 425 new products launched, 100 products sold per second worldwide and consolidated sales that doubled in 5 years to reach 13.7 billion Euros. Above all, L'Oréal represents a fantastic human adventure.

Then imagine... that you could express your creativity, your entrepreneurial spirit within one of our cross-cultural teams. And share their passion for beauty, innovation and conquering new markets.

Join an open-minded, global group and you will benefit from an immediate position of responsibility, ongoing training, experience gained with worldwide experts, a customized development plan and internal mobility including a lot of international opportunities!

More than skills, L'Oréal is looking for people with personality and ideas.

Become one of those who will shape L'Oréal's future all over the world: it's your L'Oréality!

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L'ORÉAL
WORLD LEADER IN BEAUTY PRODUCTS

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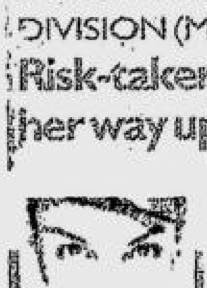

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L'ORÉAL

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my personality
It's my

L'ORÉAL PROFESSIONNEL
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YOU are like no one else.
And obviously you want to work for a company which is like no other.

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L'ORÉAL
WORLD LEADER IN BEAUTY PRODUCTS

Who has the L'Oréal identity?

TONY RUSSELL
L'OREAL HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR ASIA

"Filipinos - A good match"

L'Oreal is undoubtedly poised for a "global makeover" with its success in Europe, Latin America and North America. The global leader in the cosmetics industry is keen on attaching Asia to its portfolio. Read a globally strategic approach to reaching diverse markets with established cultures of beauty that already use products to enhance their natural beauty this translates to 'growth economies representing huge potential'. As a result, L'Oreal is establishing an aggressive presence in Asia and has started recruiting more people here.

L'Oreal, the world's leading cosmetic group is run like a fleet of small boats, each working unit headed by a captain. Each captain is given the freedom to chart his/her own course aligned to a single 'global' direction. This analogy, according to Tony Russell, Human Resources Director for L'Oreal Asia, is the best way to describe in the simplest way L'Oreal's complex operations, people and business teams.

"We have lots of small boats, some maybe slightly bigger carrying bigger brands, our business unit managers; let's call them captains, work with their teams to navigate their boats to meet a similar global objective. As our business is global in size, we have a whole range of cosmetics and beauty products covering a whole number of distribution channels. The reason behind the 'small boats' analogy is that despite its size L'Oreal remains human in size, just like a small boat each crew member is known and has easy access to their captain, this too is true of L'Oreal business units. Moreover the size of the teams allows for quick reactions to the market." Says Russell.

"The strategic growth within most of the Asian countries has been the progressive acquisition of agents," says Russell. "Here in the Philippines, it is no different, we have created a subsidiary housing divisions which manage our brands, each division has a corporate function dedicated to developing our brands/businesses.

A top priority for L'Oreal Philippines is the recruitment of people to man these small boats. With L'Oreal's passion for its "business" the kind of people who fit this culture best are individuals who thrive in an "entrepreneurial system" where constant innovation and amazing resourcefulness is a 24/7 requirement. Sensitivity to beauty and recognition of the value in "quality research and development" are also imperative. Russell adds, "People with a 'permanent startup mentality', people who will bring a new ideas, people who see a new challenge or a new way of looking at things or doing things every day. And every day this person has to be prepared to do things better and faster than the day before."

A GOOD MATCH

Russell says he finds the Filipinos are "entrepreneurial, resourceful and innovative," qualities

ASIA/O3

TINA TINIO
SHU UEMURA SENIOR PRODUCT MANAGER

The art of beauty

Never stop thinking improving and innovating, Harmony between art nature and science, Beauty Brings pleasure to people (do we add one of this Shu quotes)

Watching Tina Tinio talk animatedly about the brand she's handling for L'OREAL will make any woman realize that beauty, both inside and out, is serious business.

At 29, Tinio is the product manager of L'OREAL Philippines' newest and to date only Asian brand, Shu Uemura. Ten months ago, she accepted the daunting task of launching the luxury Japanese brand to the Philippines predominantly mass-based country. Tinio took on the challenge showing a natural flair in managing her brand in the high-end very competitive Philippine cosmetics industry.

When she was first asked to take on the challenge of Shu Uemura she admits to having had some doubts, as her background in brand management was minimal having focused mostly on public relations. But after learning more about the brand she realized that it was the perfect brand for her. Tinio's resume profile may not read like your typical brand manager profile but L'Oreal was not looking for someone typical. Her unusual background of living five years in Japan made her both fluent in the language and the culture, her previous PR work and connections was also a valuable asset capped with her studies in art history and aesthetics—she was the ideal match for Shu Uemura and its French mother company L'Oreal who prefers to hire people who possess aside from the basic educational/professional requirements a keen eye and sensitivity for beauty.

Months before its launch in October last year, she was already hard at work on spreading the word that Shu Uemura was a brand to watch out for. At its October launch, the counter was literally mobbed by women curious to experience what the hype was really all about and cult products like the Cleansing Oil and Eye Lash Curler literally flew off the shelves and sales far exceeded forecasts.

Tinio claims that its success stems in large from the 'extreme sense of quality' that the Japanese team was able to impart to her during her training in Japan months before the launch itself.

Not only did the Japanese Shu Uemura team come en force for the launch in October but their hands-on demonstration and painstaking eye for detail was evident in all aspects of the launch from the Japanese designed furniture to its manufacturing in Singapore was truly inspiring for Tinio and her team. 'No compromises' is Tinio's commitment to the consumer by bringing the best of Shu Uemura to Manila. Her no-holds barred implementation of Shu Uemura philosophy towards beauty, fueled by her own fiery passion for selling beauty equates to a true definition of "the art beauty".

Considering herself a die-hard beauty junkie Tinio says, "I'm am inspired by the idea of selling beauty to people, men and women because I feel that every person deserves to look and feel beautiful." For Tinio, it's not just about selling products, it's also about understanding people and their needs and helping them achieve their optimum beauty. "My end goal is to help them find what is beautiful in them and accentuate that." Taking Mr. Shu Uemura's philosophy to heart on how, "Beautiful make up starts with beautiful skin," has become Tinio's personal mission. One she tries to impart everyday to her own team. "Educating everyone (male or female) on the importance of skin care and how it should be done properly is something I hope me and my team can impart to every person who comes to our boutique—whether or not they buy a product…"

What drives her to perform at her job? "Passion for what you do is very important. If you don't have passion there's no reason to wake up every day," she explained. " In terms of career, I must admit, I consider this stint with L'OREAL to be—the most intense, fastest paced, learning experience of my life."

MARK CASTILLO
GROUP PRODUCT MANAGER/L'OREAL SKINCARE/HAIR

Being in a woman's shoes

Mark Alexander Castillo, barely a month at L'Oreal Philippines Inc., as new product manager has noticed a recent tendancy to dole out advice about hair coloring and skin care to his girlfriend. He admits, though, that his girlfriend doesn't mind. He says she understands that his words are connected to his work.

Mark is in charge of marketing L'Oreal Paris hair and skin care products. Coming from an established multi-national company to L'Oreal Philippines a veritable start-up in comparison—where's the catch? "None from my opinion, I never saw it as moving from billions to billion…In fact, I see much opportunity for growth where I am excited at the potential. I really see it as moving from one global leader to another—in fact, in personal care L'Oreal is the world leader. What really challenges me is the move from home care products to personal care… I feel a major shift in intimacy with my target market. I now feel closer to my target market. After all the average woman would probably care so much more on what kind of product she puts on her face than on the whiteness of her detergent."

So, what's wrong with a man marketing products for women? Don't ask Mark, who actually finds his new job "cool" and "exciting." The thing that excites him most is learning how women think about beauty and hygiene.

Close to copying Mel Gibson's character in "What Women Want", Mark tries the products on himself to know how and why women react to them in a certain way.

"I'll be honest. It's totally different," says Mark of his job. In a previous job in another company, he used to handle soaps and detergents.

"This job makes me understand women better and offer a different perspective to a woman's need."

So in the following weeks, Mark intends to sport a new daring colored 'do and eventually "fairer" skin. "I've told my friends about it and they're all saying NO 'MARK, NO!'

But nothing will stop him. "For me, it's a marriage of my six-year experience in a marketing company and the actual process of coloring my hair, making my pores smaller and my skin whiter. It's a challenge. It's something new, fresh."

For Mark, the appeal of L'Oreal isn't only about gaining new perspectives in marketing traditional products, it's also about having the so-called "cutting-edge" technology behind the products.

"I am really impressed with L'Oreal's research and its laboratory facilities. They have the technology to make synthetic skin. Wow."

As a new addition to L'Oreal Philippines, Mark promises to contribute 100 percent of his abilities as a marketer. He vows his focus now is on the woman's special needs and wants.

The man's been at it at once. Lately, he has been seen demonstrating to a female customer the aesthetic benefits of changing the color of her hair.

"I'm very enthusiastic and very animated. I hope to infect all my consumers with that kind of excitement or enthusiasm."

So, really, does gender matter in the beauty business? "Frankly no, gender has and never should be an issue in marketing beauty products, because it boils down to selling a product that makes a person feel good about themselves (male or female) after all I am marketing the brand not Mark Castillo."

VICKY ENCARNACION
GENERAL MANAGER PROFESSIONAL PRODUCTS DIVISION

Success meets 'Savoir Faire'

Seeing the big picture by working in other multinational companies helped Vicky Encarnacion achieve her goal in putting L'Oreal Philippines Professional Products Division in its current position as the salon market leader. L'Oreal was the eighth company Vicky worked for. She said it appealed to her because it was both about beauty and performance. "The attractiveness, aside from the great products is its sheer size and amazing success—it is the biggest most successful cosmetic company in the world—I was looking for a big challenge and going global was the only way to do it," she explained.

Armed with her motto of 'bigger and better', her non-stop drive to excel and her single minded focus it took her only four years to make her division a star performer with 3x growth in sales and 6x increase in profit. " At L'Oreal the beauty business is not just knowing what the hot hair color is for the season but it's also about selling that hair color to a huge chunk of the market." Says Vicky

Did Vicky's being a woman make a difference in this? Not in L'Oreal, she states that, "That's the old-fashioned way of thinking, it is not a matter of gender, it really a matter of attitude—understanding well-being and caring about how you look is what matters when working in the beauty industry—_especially in the hairdressing industry where image plays a big role."

Ask anyone in the salon industry about L'Oreal and most likely they will recall it as a top hair coloration product. The L'Oreal name has become very much 'the brand of choice' for Manila's top salons.

Today, aside from its product innovations, it is also quickly establishing itself as the hairdressing industry trendsetter, globally by partnering with HCF (Haute Coiffure Francaise—a top trend setter team in PARIS ——) and locally with the establishment of the L'OREAL STYLE SOCIETY (Manila's top stylist). "We constantly collaborate with different groups in order to come up with new ideas. By putting these ideas into trend books, organizing hair seminars and trend shows we hope to bring to the local industry the 'savoir faire' that Paris being a fashion capital is famed for. We hope to inspire and excite the local industry into coming up with their own unique creations and colors for our market."

She believes that Filipino hairstylists are very creative. "At L'Oreal we like to expose local talent to foreign guest artists in order to open up new possibilities for our local stylists to learn fresh perspectives in their craft. "This leads to experimentation and exploration of new and different ways of hairdressing— this stimulus is what makes any artistic industry thrive/blossom—who knows we may find that the next big thing is right here in our backyard."

Encarnacion likens her job at L'Oreal to driving your own car. "The culture here inside the company is very much entrepreneurial," she explained. "You do it your way." The head of a division is given freedom to do the job the best way he or she knows it, as long as it conforms to the global directions of L'Oreal.

She feels that her biggest challenge, so far is how to keep the team highly motivated all the time. According to her, a highly motivated team is a high performance team. "That's the only way you can get them to deliver a lot more if they're motivated."

"As part of the L'Oreal culture, we encouraged cross cultural exchange," she said. Because it is an international company, it is necessary to know what the needs of the local consumers are. What may be a hit in Paris may not be well-received in the

Philippines. Encarnacion keeps herself in tune with what's going on in other countries by attending L'Oreal's gatherings and conferences.

L'Oreal makes it point to know what men and women want. Encarnacion feels great pride in introducing products to the market knowing that they have been extensively researched and tested by the company's laboratory. " Not only can I really identify with the solutions and innovations our beauty products offer a person but I am very secure that there is no way our products will fall short of the expectations of our consumer. We have great pride in saying this product is made by L'Oreal," she said.

PATRICIA ESGUERRA
GENERAL MANAGER OF LUXURY PRODUCTS DIVISION (INDONESIA)

Risk-taker works her way up

IT was the desire to start an international career that pushed Maria Patricia D. Esguerra to accept the post of general manager for L'Oreal's Professional Products Division in Singapore. "If an international career is your objective, let the management know," she says. Esguerra, who had been with L'Oreal for nine years, was given only two weeks to make a decision if she was up to the challenge of moving to Singapore.

Esguerra's ascent in a culturally diverse company like L'OREAL can be considered an inspiration for many. Starting out with L'OREAL Philippines as marketing manager in the Professional Products Division and finding herself three years later named as general manager for the same division. In 1998 she made a big leap to Singapore as general manager of the Professional Products Division. Now at 43, she is taking on yet another challenge: She has been asked to move to Indonesia as the general manager for their Luxury Products Division.

She believes that for someone who aims to make it really big in any industry, he or she must be equipped to take on any task given at any time. "You've got to prove your worth and be ready to move when the opportunity arises," she says.

As a multinational company, L'OREAL promotes a sense of independence among the heads of each department. Once a head of the division is given an objective, all the person needs to do is learn how to maneuver the team leading to the end goal.

"We're allowed a tremendous amount of leeway to find creative ways of growing the business," Esguerra says. "Risk-taking is encouraged and there's also the famous 'right to make mistakes." She cites a much-circulated article from Nikkei Business on L'Oreal titled, "The right to be wrong" promised to all employees:

Since its founding years, it has always been understood at L'Oreal that, "Everybody has a right to make mistakes". Employees that have made mistakes are given another chance. L'Oreal encourages employees to maintain a challenging spirit through risk-taking rather than let them become passive from fear of mistakes. Francois Vachey, Vice President in charge of Human Resources adds, "People that have failed are given a second chance somewhere else. If they calmly analyze the cause of their mistake, they will not make the same mistake again."

L'OREAL belongs to a competitive industry of beauty; it is only fitting to expect that the work atmosphere is just as competitive. This is because everyone has deep passion for the business and there is this tremendous urge to excel. Taking on the challenges

RISK-TAKER/O2

L'ORÉAL PHILIPPINES

Beyond the glamour

PHILIPPINE COUNTRY MANAGER PAUL HENRI DUILLET

THE STATEMENT seemingly contradicts the very sound state of affairs that is true of today's L'Oreal Philippines. This L'Oreal Group subsidiary is currently experiencing both boom and expansion with more than three-fold growth since 1998 and aims for a PHP1billion in sales for 2003.

In the four years since Duillet took over the reins of L'Oreal Philippines he has quickly and steadily made short work of building up L'Oreal's key global brands in the country's beauty industry. For the professional products division L'Oreal Professionel hair coloration products is now massively consumed by the AB salons, for the broader based brands Maybelline New York and L'Oreal Paris are generating top sales in department stores and personal care stores and for the luxury brands in the categories of Ralph Lauren, Giorgio Armani and Lancôme are current top sellers. Lately, a recent cosmetics acquisition by L'Oreal Group, Shu Uemura the Japanese signature brand launched in the Philippines last October 2002 is also experiencing dramatic sales by becoming the number 1 counter in sales for Rustan's Makati this January. With all that, Duillet says, " There is still much more growth, more brands and much more opportunities to grasp - - we have only just begun."

The company's success here is just a reflection of the overall success of the cosmetic portfolio/power of L'Oreal worldwide. Fortune Magazine, which made L'Oreal its cover in September 2002, describes the company as a "French chic" that turned into an "international star." And why not, when it can claim a total worldwide cosmetics sales amounting to 14.3 Billion in Euro for 2001. No one hit wonder L'Oreal Group has been experiencing double-digit growth for the last 17 years.

And the story is no different for L'Oreal Philippines, which Duillet describes as, "a startup," even though L'Oreal products such as hair coloration have been salon staples for over a decade. Duillet recalls when he first set his foot in the country in 1999, "We literally ran the business from a small house, with a 74 strong manpower force we have since moved offices and grown to 140 and are still recruiting.. "

L'Oréal invests a lot on research. Over the past 7 years, L'Oreal has significantly increased its portfolio of patents and currently owns more than 25,000 patents in force around the world

L'OREAL PROFESIONNEL COLOUR TROPHY

The first thing he did was hire new talents. "Obviously, L'Oreal operations being small here and not yet recognized made it a little difficult,.but for those who enjoy the challenge it has truly been an adventure..." says Duillet. The people who do well in this company need a strong entrepreneurial side, a "flair for fashion" and must have the desire to 'always be better'. These are people who have 'antennas' and make it a point to be in the know, with an ear to the ground for what's new in the market. They have to be super curious and be constantly asking themselves how they can accomplish more. They must exhibit boldness in their ideas and implementation, courage in fighting for their products or projects but at the same time be very humble in accepting feedback from the consumers," says Duillet.

"In that sense I think one of the achievements from 1998 to 2002 is a total turnaround from the increase in the quality of talents and their quality of work to the choice of products/brands we have chosen to launch in the Philippines —all this together has lead to our growth." adds Duillet.

LOREAL GROUP PROFILE:

- *GLOBAL LEADER IN THE COSMETICS INDUSTRY
- *PRESENT IN MORE THAN 150 COUNTRIES
- *Consolidated SALES : 14.30 Billion euro (2002)
- *49, 150 employees throughout the world
- *3% of sales dedicated to R&D

In the beginning

L'Oreal's entry in the country began in 1989 initially through the agent, Cosmetique de Paris (CDP) who sold hair color to salons. Starting from scratch the marketing was done through person to person. In 1993, the L'Oreal Group injected capital into this agency thus making it a subsidiary of the L'Oreal Group. The 1990s also saw the concerted move of L'Oreal Group to establish markets and make its presence felt in Asia. Eventually CDP expanded with the addition of a consumer division providing retail products for personal care stores and department stores.

The big turnaround for the CDP came in 1996 when its mother company L'Oreal Group acquired the American cosmetics company Maybelline and the products became a hit with the local consumers.

The L'Oreal Way

In 1999, Duillet came onboard and CDP became L'Oreal Philippines, a wholly owned subsidiary of L'Oreal Group. Bringing with him the L'Oreal style of doing business Duillet's first order of business was to consolidate. "Getting the whole family together under one roof was essential to be able to manage properly our image and growth. At the time, we had made some progress in the salon division, but our consumer division was focused only on makeup and L'Oreal Paris is more than makeup. On top of that, we had various distributors, subcontractors etc... So we consolidated Maybelline, boosted the L'Oreal Paris brand in other categories like skin and hair and started to be more aggressive in the salon coloration market with L'Oreal Professionel. A good example of this was turning L'Oreal's premier salon hair care line Kerastase into the leading haircare in luxury salons. Moreover in 2001 we created the Luxury Products Division which helped achieve an impressive total growth of 72% in that year."

A Filipino Match

"The Philippines is a beautiful country to operate in because the consumers have good taste and taking care of one's appearance is central to Filipino culture." Duillet observes. Beyond that, they are an resilient, extremely resourceful and enjoy having fun. These are key qualities to us. In fact, the Philippines is a country where it is relatively easy to find world-class talents that can enrich not only the local team but also our world organization.

L'Oreal Philippines is serious about staying in the country for a long time with a portfolio of 11 signatures and plans to launch others. With that intention, L'Oreal practices a "good citizen" disposition. "We have a code of ethics, a booklet that we give to each employee. The key word of that code of ethics is 'respect': respect for the consumers, the people, and the country," says Duillet. Whenever we can help, we do. Hence our commitments to organizations like CCIP (Chamber of Cosmetic Industry of the Philippines), ACA (Asean Cosmetic Association) and BFAD (Bureau of Food and Drugs) when it comes to product registration. Beyond our own business, we consider it our duty to developing the industry. Continuously proposing to our retail partners different ways/ideas on developing product categories.

After putting things together and getting the team on board L'Oreal Philippines is now experiencing the start of the "virtuous spirale" investing more in advertising and brand support. "Five times more in 2002 from 2001 and 60% more for 2003; promoting star products –careful control of overheads—and the consumers' great acceptance of our products makes all this possible—Now that is heaven for any managing director." says Duillet.

Dynamic, innovative and multinational just a few of the words often used to describe L'Oreal. Beyond the glamour that is in the L'Oreal name, there's the research, the ethical position of respect and the meticulous planning that goes into the infusion of money behind each of its products. Essential to all this is delivering on the promise of each product.

SHU UEMURA MAKEUP SHOW

"I'd like to believe that we're going to offer the Filipino/Filipina state-of-the-art products to enhance not only their beauty but their well being; whether it is in skin care, hair coloration, makeup, styling and fragrances." To help in doing so, we have the formidable innovation power of the whole L'Oreal Group- and an everyday more talented Filipino team.

Asia

FrompageO2

that go well with L'Oreal's values. "Moreover I believe that the Filipino people have cultural sensitivity. L'Oreal is an organization, which is sensitive to culture, to beauty, to the arts, and I think the Filipino people are very close to that. There's a very good match between the Filipinos and L'Oreal with regards to our style, our culture, our values and our organization."

WHAT IS IN IT FOR THE FILIPINOS

L'Oreal has a lot to offer the Filipino who matches the L'Oreal Profile. We are not a 'hire and fire company' we nurture long-term careers – we like to provide our people with 'full careers'. In this company the access for excellence is a given. The insistence on quality is high and for those who make the cut the opportunities for overseas training and international work assignments are a given. L'Oreal has a big training facility in its head office Paris as well as a regional training center in Singapore. It also provides international executive programs for business managers through its link with Insead, a very reputable European international business school. The company also runs many regional training seminars in the Asia zone, which include Japan, China, Korea, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

So for those still asking themselves why work for L'Oreal? Russell concludes, "If you're working for L'Oreal here or anywhere else in the world, don't forget that you are working for a Global organization with a Global vision yet with multiple small teams ('our fleet of small boats'). Consider the size and diversity of our portfolio and imagine the world as your target market that alone should ensure that working with L'Oreal will challenge anyone's curiosity, creativity and ability to create business."

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risk-taker

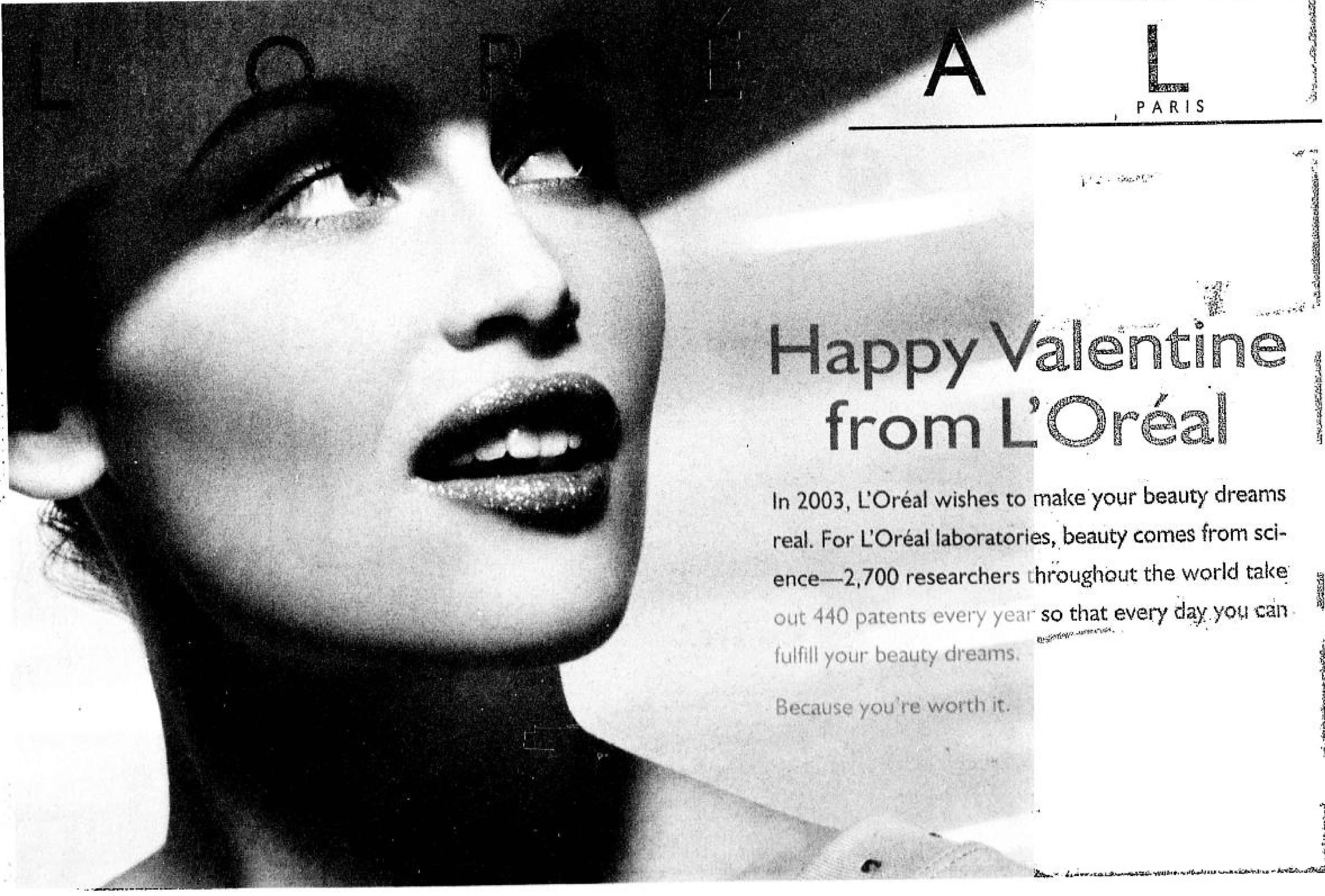
FrompageO2

and performing always at full throttle shows Esguerra's strength and flexibility.

"You need to adapt to new experiences, but you also realize how many fundamental things—people's values and motivation—are the same everywhere," the La Salle-educated Esguerra says.

She also relates that working in another country, in a very culturally diverse company is enriching from both a professional as well as a personal point of view. "This allows you to overcome cultural stereotypes and thus become more effective." Esguerra said.

Ultimately adaptability and skills aside, "One has to understand beauty and well-being to understand the world of L'OREAL."



L'ORÉAL
PARIS

Happy Valentine from L'Oréal

In 2003, L'Oréal wishes to make your beauty dreams real. For L'Oréal laboratories, beauty comes from science—2,700 researchers throughout the world take out 440 patents every year so that every day you can fulfill your beauty dreams.

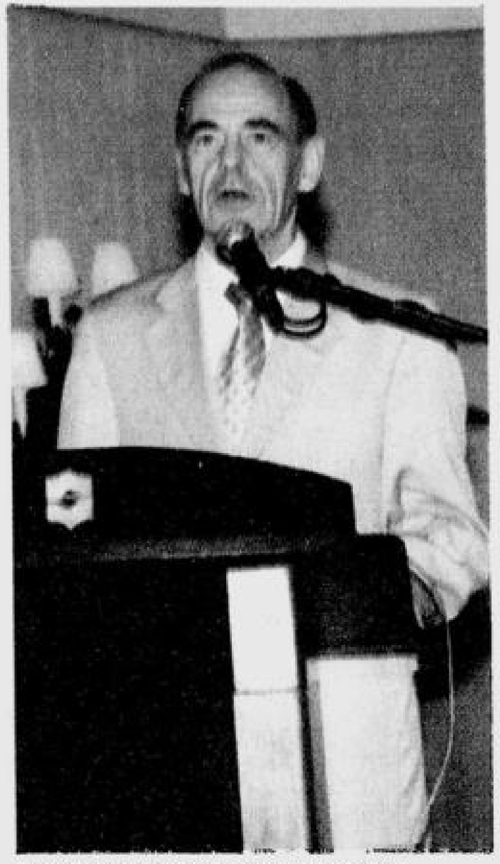
Because you're worth it.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The science of beauty

Writers: Raquel Gomez
Marlet Salazar
Art Director: Alden Joshua Cedo

L'Oréal has pioneered many significant breakthroughs in the study of skin and hair. The company has developed the first artificial skin, which helps further understanding of skin defects and ultimately in finding cures.



DR. CLAUDE BOUILLON SPEAKS AT L'OREAL PHILIPPINES PRESS EVENT ON SKIN PHOTO-AGING

EVER since L'Oréal founder Eugene Schueller developed the first synthetic hair dyes almost a century ago, L'Oréal has built its global cosmetic empire not only through marketing and acquisitions, but relying heavily on research and development to back up its products.

L'Oréal invests a lot on research. Over the past 7 years, L'Oreal has significantly increased its portfolio of patents and currently owns more than 25,000 patents in force around the world. In 2001, 493 patents were filed. More than 3,000 new formulas are developed every year. Approximately 3% of the L'Oreal Group sales totaling over 430 million euro was allocated to research in 2001. Establishing 16 research centers and laboratories in 3 different continents around the world EUROPE, NORTH AMERICA and ASIA. And most significantly, grouping together the best and finest scientists and researchers in the field of cosmetic science to study skin and hair.

Dr Claude Bouillon, member of L'Oréal Board of Directors for Research, is a Doctor of Science and a graduate of Ecole Nationale Superieure de Chimie in Caen, believes that the role of scientists in the fields of skin and hair has no limits. Bouillon was teaching in a University of CAEN, France when L'Oréal invited him to join its research group in the 1960s. Since then, Bouillon admits to having had the distinct pleasure in working with the best scientists and researchers in the world and has been witness or participated directly in some of the most significant research in hair and skin funded by L'Oréal.

From the L'Oréal research facilities came the following significant breakthroughs in the field of hair and skin science:

On skin study

- The development of 'non invasive' (does not alter/affect the skin being studied) instrumental methods to study skin properties which enabled dermatologists for the first time to get tools and gather data;
- The building of devices to measure skin hydration, miniaturization, firmness, tonicity, resilience, microcirculation, surface network of fine lines, lines, wrinkles;
- The development of "liposomes technology," which is a revolutionary dispersion of oil in water for skincare that acts as a barrier of the skin against pollutants and irritants;
- The creation of "oleosomes" that serves as a unique vehicle of oil soluble actives carried into the skin by liposomes;
- The development of "nanocapsules" and "triple emulsions" that allowed the skin to benefit from antioxidants vitamins C and E,
- The creation of artificial skin from cultured cells that enabled scientists to examine at the cell and molecular level the effects on skin of environmental factors such as UV from the sun, oxidants and pollutants;
- The development of the different types of skin (artificial) and the development of artificial skin with immune cells to help detect products that may cause allergy;
- The findings on the detrimental effects in the skin of UVAs (sun radiation), which is a key factor in inducing photo aging and reducing the skin's immune defense;
- The development of high potency filters to absorb UVAs and efficient sunscreen products;

On hair study

- Putting up of a variety of methods to assess hair condition;
- The development of top level hair shampoos and conditioners that enhance hair condition while efficiently cleaning hair and scalp;
- Development of a unique palette of natural, radiant, highlights shades, with continuous innovations, and enhanced hair conditioning effects;
- The discovery of "ceramide," a component of hair cuticle with the property of tightening the scales and evening hair surface;

On the artificial skin development, Bouillon says the benefits of research don't just stop on the cosmetics level. "Such skin models raise great hope for a better understanding of the defects and ultimately finding a therapeutic treatment to allow such patients so-called "children of the moon" to not be condemned to live in the shadow."

Skin and hair research is of utmost importance at L'Oréal, according to Dr. Bouillon, who adds that 30 percent of the 2,700 people who work for L'Oréal Research Laboratories are dedicated to the fundamental study of skin and hair.

"L'Oréal has considered from the beginning that true innovation can only rise and spring from advances in basic knowledge. The efforts devoted to fundamental research on skin and hair are incomparable, unique in our industry both in terms of investments and high level of scientists involved."

LOREAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT KEY FIGURES:

*432 million euro dedicated to cosmetic and dermatological Research

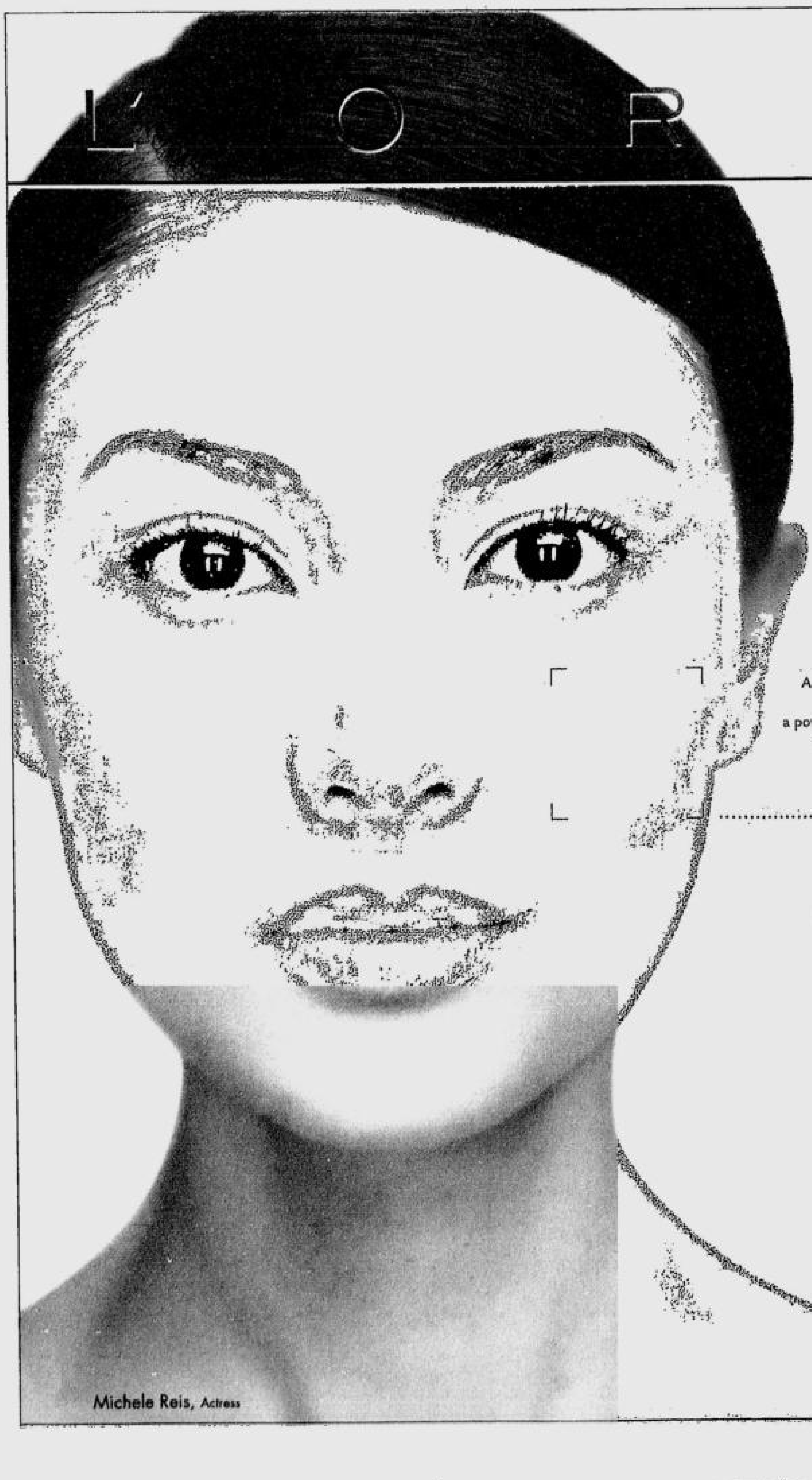
*2743 staff members

*493 patents

*3,000 new formulas

*16 research centers spread across the world

L' O R É A L
PARIS



Michele Reis, Actress

PORES MINIMISED:
PERFECT SKIN EVEN UP CLOSE.

PLÉNITUDE
SKIN REFINER
PORE MINIMISING ESSENCE

A BREAKTHROUGH IN SKIN REFINING.
New from L'Oréal Skincare Laboratories: a powerful and innovative formula with salicylic acid and algae extract for an intensive and complete action on pores and skin texture.

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Pore Minimising essence
with salicylic acid

L'ORÉAL
Skincare Laboratories
INNOVATION

TESTS PROVE IT:
pore minimising effectiveness*: 94%
skin refining effectiveness*: 97%

PORES VISIBLY MINIMISED,
SKIN TEXTURE PERFECTLY REFINED.
Pores are instantly minimised. In just 2 weeks, they are visibly reduced. Your skin appears smoother, more even. Perfect, even up close!

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* Results after two weeks as tested by 100 Asian women.

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